

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

RY

January 1999

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Commander Renews
Old Glory's Cause
PAGE 10

Ballad Of A Green Beret

Gen. Henry H. Shelton,
Joint Chiefs Chairman

By Robin Moore



PLUS

Cuba After Castro

By Georgie Anne Geyer

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 146, No. 1

The Magazine for a Strong America

January 1999

ARTICLES

CHALLENGES IN THE 106TH CONGRESS

The budget squeeze has hit older veterans, but look for progress on the GI Bill of Health.

14

DOUBLE EXPOSURE By Tony Miller

A new study will focus on the long-term effects of Agent Orange.

18

BALLAD OF A GREEN BERET By Robin Moore

A Special Forces soldier rises to the top of his profession.

20

FIDEL'S FAILED UTOPIA By Georgie Anne Geyer

The 40-year consequences of a communist revolution are revolting.

26

CONSCIENCE WITHOUT COLOR Interview

Renaissance man Ken Hamblin makes waves on Denver's airwaves.

32

STANDARD ISSUE By Tom Slear

Military gadgets can become civilian necessities.

36

TO BRING THEM HOME By Terry Coffey

Legion official views North Korea MIA operations.

42

FACING THE MORAL CRISIS By David Penticuff

Legion leaders chart a course of honor to protect Old Glory and America's veterans.

46

DEPARTMENTS

VETVOICE

4

BIG ISSUES

48

VETS

60

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

10

VETERANS UPDATE

44

PARTING SHOTS

66

WASHINGTON WATCH

12

LEGION NEWS

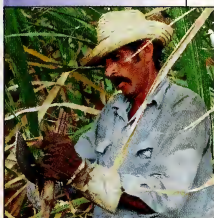
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COVER Gen. Henry Shelton (Department of Defense photo)

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.



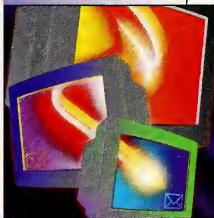
20



26



32



36



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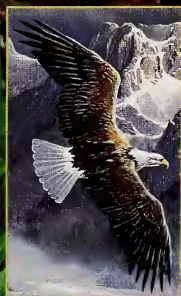
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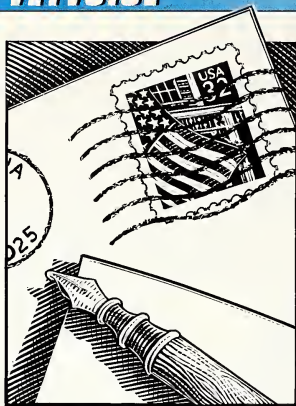
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THE FRANKLIN MINT



No Guns for Honor Guards

THE Massachusetts legislature just passed the most comprehensive and egregious firearms control bill in the nation. One part, which affects all veterans groups, states that citizens cannot take a firearm into any public area. Hence the color guards cannot take their firearms with them. If convicted, they could face jail terms and felony charges. Perhaps the magazine could take an impartial view of this law and report to our fellow Legionnaires on what may soon be coming to their state.

*George R. MacKinnon
Woburn, Mass.*

Criminal Act

THE Second Amendment means just what it says: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." I am tired of the liberal politicians and media making it look like the law-abiding gun owner is the cause of crime. Passing laws that abridge the Second Amendment rights of citizens will not stop criminals.

*William Roth Jr.
Ocean View, N.J.*

All the Way

SHAME on you for not mentioning Sgt. Alvin York's unit. I was told York was a member of the 325th Inf. Rgt., the only Army unit which was regular infantry in World War I, glider-borne in World War II and airborne when I was a member of the 82nd Airborne.

*Joe Hale
Elwood, Ill.*

"No" to Bilingual Schools

BILINGUALISM threatens to rip apart the United States much the same way as Canada is being torn apart now (Big Issues, November). As a naturalized citizen, I had a hard time learning English. After I became an American, I spoke only English, especially to my children. Bilingualism,

though, encourages immigrants to keep their foreign tongue. As a result, they are quietly forced into language ghettos. No American deserves that.

*Marylyn Monares Anich
Omaha, Neb.*

"Yes" to English

IVOTE "yes," public schools should be English only. And Congress should make English the official language. Why? So children can learn English quicker and reduce wasteful spending by duplicating documents and counterproductive teaching. Let's do it before it's too late.

*Richard Fenzel
Louisville, Ky.*

Medic!

EVERY veteran will testify that our government promised lifetime medical care for each retiree and family at no cost to the veteran. Now our government disavows this promise through distortion, deception and other dishonorable language while some veterans struggle and sometimes lose their life savings and homes to pay their medical bills.

What action is The American Legion taking to restore this promise? One person who is taking action is Bud Day, Medal of Honor recipient, POW in Hanoi, and attorney. He is representing

MEETING THE 'GIMME FIVE' CHALLENGE

IN ITS first month, National Commander "Butch" Miller's "Gimme Five!" competition has produced 25 winners, according to Membership officials. The first winners have received confirmation by letter, and each winner's silk tie, mouse pad or pen will be forwarded when received at Headquarters.

National Commander Miller recently announced his new member-award program, one that's available to every blue-cap Legionnaire. Offering friends or co-workers celebratory "high fives" is a practice that's gravitated from the sports world to general usage, and now it's also a celebration of initiative in membership recruiting, which seems to be working really well, Membership officials report.

How's it work? Recruit five new members for your Post between Veterans Day and April 14, 1999 - The American Legion Birthday Target Date, 95 percent - and take your pick of three great prizes. Recruiters are earning unique, "Gimme Five!" neckties, red American Legion computer mouse pads

or quality Garland pens with this inscription: "National Commander's Gimme' Five! Award, '98-'99." Each recruiter can earn a maximum of four awards, officials say.

"This is a great opportunity to boost your Post's membership muscle while helping yourself to some great little prizes," says Commander Miller. "And the great thing is, this is open to any Legionnaires who want to take the time to improve their Posts by reaching out to fellow veterans in their community."

Under the contest rules, both the Post commander and Post adjutant must verify the recruiters' new members, sign off on them and then mail the cards directly to National Headquarters for processing. Recruitment forms are to be filled out with the recruiter's name, Post, Department and address, plus the names of the five members recruited and their temporary membership numbers. For more information, contact officials at your Post, Department or National Headquarters. □



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*Harry G. Riley
Niceville, Fla.*

Stamp of Honor

I WAS fortunate enough to have met Audie Murphy in 1955. It was truly an honor. This is part of the reason I wish to make other Legionnaires aware of the effort to implore the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor the most-deco-

rated hero of World War II. To help the cause, Legionnaires should voice their support to the: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Marketing Development Branch, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L Enfant Plaza, SW, Rm. 4474 E, Washington, D.C. 20260-6756.

*Joseph D. Martin
Philadelphia, Pa.*

One Korea

GIVEN that North and South Korea combined would constitute a massed formation of major regional, perhaps even global, power, it is time for our

nation to examine the continuing deployment of our forces in South Korea. Because it is a constitutional issue of policy, this needs to be a congressional process rather than an activity of the executive branch or of the Pentagon to investigate.

Long-term interests could aid in developing a mutual defense treaty, rather than short-term military operational goals. Our pullout should be based on the lengthy British model of withdrawing from Singapore rather than the American model of withdrawal from Vietnam. If the process is started now, there is reason to believe Ameri-

YOUR PERSONAL MEMORIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

We need your personal memories of the 20th century for a special edition of **THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE** to be published in September.

The deadline for submission is April 1, 1999.

Please provide us with a letter of no more than 300 words and a related photograph on one of your experiences tied to one of the topics listed below.

Please remember to send along a photograph that directly relates to the memory you choose to write about. Submissions without photos will not be used. Photos will be returned to those who submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Letters are due in our office by April 1, 1999.

Letters selected will earn the writer \$50.

Please tell us about... (Choose one)

- ☛ Your most cherished childhood memory.
- ☛ A teacher who made a difference in your life.
- ☛ Your most unusual or most memorable first day on the job.
- ☛ Your most memorable moment in military service or upon your return home.
- ☛ A time your faith in God saw you through.
- ☛ A personal hero, someone you've known well.
- ☛ Crossing paths with a famous or infamous person.
- ☛ Your playing days and your greatest sports achievement.
- ☛ Your first airplane flight.
- ☛ Your first car or your favorite car.
- ☛ Your most memorable extravagance.
- ☛ A time you resourcefully overcame a lack of money.
- ☛ Which clothing fashion you enjoyed or found the strangest.
- ☛ Your favorite vacation.
- ☛ Your favorite memory of farm life.
- ☛ The single most memorable moment in your life.

The Sea of Cortés Discovered

As the demand for destination-oriented travel continues to grow, traditional tourist spots like Mexico have begun to focus on undeveloped regions and more culturally intensive itineraries. One such itinerary offers a combination of beautiful beaches, rare wildlife and historical cities.

Seven-night roundtrip cruises, exploring the Sea of Cortés, sail north from Cabo San Lucas along the Baja Peninsula. Eleven-night cruise-tours include an excursion to Copper Canyon, a remote area four times the size of the Grand Canyon, located on Mexico's mainland.

Mexico's Baja Peninsula

The Baja Peninsula, jutting out from mainland Mexico south of California, offers a myriad of vistas, rugged mountains, sandy beaches, offshore islands and spectacular rock formations, best viewed from the deck of a small cruise ship. Small ships, holding no more than 100 guests, travel close to the shoreline, negotiating narrow waterways. The ships' launches, kayaks and snorkeling

wildlife sanctuaries, and out-of-the-way beaches and bays for snorkeling, swimming and hiking. By land, they tour Baja's desert and mountain scenery and visit small ports with histories and cultures that have evolved separately from cities on the Mexican mainland.

Besides Santa Rosalia, ports of call include Mulége, Loreto and La Paz. Each is widely separate—both in distance and spirit—from tourist cities on the mainland. These towns feature colonial-era architecture, cobblestone streets and plazas, and early missions, established in the late 17th century.

The Copper Canyon

Every Cruise West Sea of Cortés cruise can be combined with a 4-night land excursion to Copper Canyon. Four times larger and 300 feet deeper than the Grand Canyon, Copper Canyon is accessible by the South Orient Express, aboard domed railcars which travel from sea level to almost 8,000 feet,



through stunning vistas and spectacular switchbacks. Deep in the heart of the Canyon live the Tarahumara Indians, one of the most isolated cultures in North America. Guests on the Copper Canyon cruise-tour have the opportunity to visit with the Tarahumara.

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gear also provide up-close access to the rare wildlife found along the Peninsula.

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Cruise West's Sea of Cortés Cruises

Cruise West's seven-night cruises trace the Baja coastline from Cabo San Lucas to Santa Rosalia, a small, colonial-style community 400 miles north, exploring both land and sea. By sea, guests visit offshore islands,



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can influence in northeast Asia will be strengthened. Proper congressional involvement will help improve conditions for a positive outcome and will help solidify rather than erode our friendship with Korea.

*Richard P. Fulton
Pittsburg, Kan.*

Taxable Income

WHO ARE THOSE who want everyone splattered with the blood of their buddies? It has been widely stated that "combat should not be wished upon my worst enemy." Cassius Clay's refusal to serve was based on the grounds of his Islamic beliefs, John Wayne's was a physical shortcoming. Their income taxes, though, probably paid for the ship's fuel that brought many of us home.

*Robert E. Behm
New Wilmington, Pa.*

For the Books

I ENJOYED the November interview with John Wooden (Holding Court). His is a message, and he himself a living example, that goes to the core of

old-fashioned American ideals, principles and virtues.

Much more than basketball titles or records, this is what Coach Wooden is all about. It was my privilege to collaborate with him on, "Wooden, a Lifetime of Observations and Reflections On and Off the Court" (Contemporary Books, 1997).

*Steve Jamison
San Francisco*

Keeping Their Word

THE AMERICAN LEGION Magazine should look up some of those statements which the government made to enlisted men back in the 1940s and write an article about them.

When I enlisted at age 17, I was told that they would always take care of me and my family. Now, while the records show the illnesses and all that was treated, they want to insist the maladies are not service-connected — they deny them all. Maybe if we would confront them with those broken promises, they would speed up their claims processing.

*James P. Stanton
Minneapolis*

Touched

THE RESOLUTIONS passed at the New Orleans' Convention really hit home: Res. 325 on Filipino Veterans and Res. 97 on Medical Care for WWII Veterans. These two especially mean much in our home. I hope all Legionnaires can find resolutions that can touch them equally as much.

*Charles W. Foster
Burnsville, Minn.*

Five Harringtons

I AM PRIVATE Harrington, number five of the Five Harringtons of World War II. My father did not raise us any differently than other sons. But we decided to do what we had to do and serve our country. The records will show that we served our country some 60 years. I believe Commander Miller's message (November) will bring out a lot of strong Americans again. I let my grandson read it because a 12-year-old doesn't know what we went through in those days.

*William M. Harrington
Oakley, Calif.*



FOR REMEMBERING During a tour of Pennsylvania, National Commander "Butch" Miller stopped in at John Lewis Shade Post 6 in Clearfield. During his visit, Miller presented a certificate of appreciation to Rebecca Robertson Williams for

her essay, "July 4, Take a Moment to Remember Our Veterans," which was based on her childhood experiences with veterans. Also taking part was Pennsylvania Department Commander William Neitz (left).

The

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That weapon? The Colt M1911A1 .45. From 1911 to 1985—even in "second-life" service in the 1991 Gulf War—it served longer than any other military small arm in the world—past, present, or, likely, future. Its passing, only due to NATO standardization of 9mm, is bemoaned.

Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force

Now, Colt and The American Historical Foundation are proud to issue Official Colt Collectibles, separate firing M1911A1 .45's, to honor each of our Armed Forces—U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force—in your choice of 24-Karat Gold plating or Hard Nickel plating. Advanced collectors will want to acquire one of each with matching registry numbers.

"First" in Collecting!

This announcement presents two important "First" to arms collecting: (1) This is the first Official Colt Collectible .45 issuance to honor each of our Armed Forces. And (2) this is the first Official Colt Collectible .45 with coverage of inscriptions extending all the way to the lower front side of the slide.

The "Golden Tribute"

The 24-Karat Gold Plated Golden Tribute is a firing Museum Piece; each gleams like a valuable Gold nugget, as rich 24-Karat Gold plating glitters across each pistol. As your guarantee of lasting beauty and value, the plating is to Jewelers Grade-Heavy standards. The Rosewood grips are finished to a corresponding deluxe high gloss. This edition is strictly limited to only 500 pistols per service branch.

"Silver Tribute"—Hard Nickel Plating

For veterans and collectors who prefer a Show

Quality, but rugged finish, we're also announcing the Colt Silver Tribute. Each pistol is mirror polished and plated with beautiful, yet heavy-duty, Hard Nickel plating. The Rosewood grips are finished with multiple coats of hand-rubbed oil. The Silver Tribute edition is strictly limited to 1,000 per service branch.

Considering the millions of Americans who served in the Armed Forces during the "45 era", the edition limits are highly restricted.

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A031

RENEWING THE GOOD FIGHT

Winning protection for Old Glory will be the triumph of 1999.



National Commander "Butch" Miller



WE ARE CALLED. At the top of this new year, we're back in the game for a constitutional amendment to allow the American people to protect their flag. Our triumph is so close that last year only our opponents' use of rule-book technicalities prevented it.

We Legionnaires grow daily in our commitment and determination, our patience and focus. And we have a record of success in what we set out to do. It took years of persuasion and homework to meld many patchwork government agencies into the Veterans Administration and then into the Department of Veterans Affairs. It took years of research to break the government's pattern of denial on Agent Orange and Gulf War illnesses and keep faith with those veterans.

I don't cite our successes and lasting concerns just as another pat on the back but as a measure of The Legion's patience and persistence – and of our blue-capped Legionnaires' devotion to comrades and country. You've written thousands of letters to our political representatives in our nation's capital and answered the misinformation and poorly reasoned commentary in so much of the media. And, given there are now more pro-flag votes

in the Senate, you've already seen results.

Last year, Posts large and small in every district handed out pro-flag literature, circulated petitions and thanked pro-flag lawmakers for their support. Legionnaires urged Americans to show their colors at their homes and businesses to such effect that Senate passage of the flag amendment was thwarted only when some opponents took advantage of delaying tactics.

This month, the pro-flag forces, including the 135 civic and service organizations that are members of the Citizens Flag Alliance, will be back. We'll be placing flag protection, which is – and always has been – favored by 80 percent of Americans, at the forefront of Congressional action with more pro-flag people in office than ever.

None of the National Commanders who have had the honor of being your chief spokesmen in this 10-year fight ever assumed the effort would be a cake walk. On the other hand, none of us – and none of you – have ever doubted that the last try would end in triumph.

This effort on behalf of our country goes way beyond New Year's resolutions. I'd bet most of you have this year's programs for the flag amendment and other Legion initiatives planned out. And it's a solid guess you've included much, maybe all, of the following:

- Keeping in touch with elected representatives in Washington, D.C., and being clear, concise and polite, missing no opportunities to award a deserved "attaboy." Maintaining that communication will benefit our efforts when it comes to the GI Bill of Health and a fair shake for veterans with service- and tobacco-connected health problems.

- Seeing the opportunities, not the problems, in expanding and refining Post programs, and talking up the National Emergency Fund with the goal of making it a regular item in the Post's charitable budget. Taking care of our own, and taking pride in doing so, are righteous things to do.

- Looking for opportunities to display the U.S. Flag in public as well as for opportunities to salute those who do so. And teaching by example, leading when needed and following through to make worthy projects work.

Happy 1999. May our service to God and country bring pride and satisfaction to us all. □



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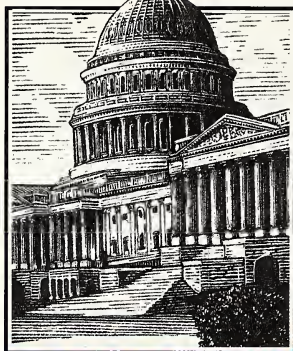
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400-2410



By Cliff Kincaid

The Threat Within

AFTER ordering military strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan, President Clinton announced that it was "terribly wrong" to think of an "inevitable clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West. But Morgan Norval, a former Marine and author of "The Triumph of Disorder" (Sligo Press, Inc.), a new book on terrorism, says this clash clearly threatens our survival. "The World Trade Center bombing is an example of Islamic fundamentalism's lashing out at innocents close to the heart of the West," he writes.

"Iran," he contends, "views Islam as the successor to communism in the effort to topple the Judeo/Christian-led new world order."

Norval, a member of the International Association of Counterterrorism and Security Professionals, insists that America is wide open to terrorist attacks and that terror cells already exist here.

"The enemy is among us," he concludes.

Keeping Alaska...

WORRIED about America losing the Panama Canal? What about Russia taking back Alaska? Rep. Tom Campbell of California and his wife Susanne, an academic, had heard rumors that there was "something amiss" with the U.S.

side of the 1867 treaty agreement by which Russia sold Alaska to the United States.

Rest assured: Documents in the national archives confirm the sale was legal. But Campbell did find the United States had failed to pay the \$7.2 million purchase price on time.

"The payment took place three months, 10 days late!" he says. Today, the sum of lost interest due the Russians has reached \$58 million.

However, Campbell's press secretary, Suhail Khan, tells *THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE* that Campbell has no intention of introducing a bill to send the money to Russia.

"He only wanted to set the record straight" about the transaction, Khan says.

...And Losing Hawaii

IF THE United Nations has its way, Hawaii could eventually leave the United States and become an independent nation.

Making big news in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, a U.N. group studying America's annexation of Hawaii has issued a report advocating that Hawaii be put on a list of "non-self governing territories"—a mere colony of the United States. Then, Hawaii would be eligible for "decolonization" and be able to determine its own future under a U.N.-sponsored plebiscite.

This has found some support in Hawaii, where several groups have contended that the annexation was illegal.

"Not a State in '98" was the cry of one such organization on the centennial of the annexation.

Others contend Hawaii was a victim of "American imperialism" as the United States moved to acquire overseas territories. One popular book on the subject contends that Hawaii is a "Nation Within."

Proof Positive

FORMER CIA analyst Patrick Eddington is not impressed by the massive 693-page Senate Veter-

ans' Affairs Committee report, produced by 20 "experts," which claimed "insufficient evidence" to link Gulf War illnesses and low-level exposure to chemical weapons. Eddington notes that a General Accounting Office report, issued in September, came to a different conclusion.

"Past research indicates that low-level exposures to some chemical warfare agents may result in adverse short-term performance and long-term health effects," states the GAO study.

Eddington, who left the CIA after protesting its handling of this matter, points out that the GAO report (GAO/NSIAD-98-228) indicts the Pentagon for failing to address the issue of low-level chemical exposures. The report says DoD doesn't have a strategy, policy or doctrine on the matter.

"It is my sincere hope that members of Congress will move swiftly to address the issues raised in this report," Eddington says.

Security Concern

THE MONICA Lewinsky scandal could lead to a review of security procedures at the Pentagon.

In a startling revelation, President Clinton was quoted in independent counsel Ken Starr's report as saying he suspected a foreign embassy was tapping his White House telephone lines (he didn't specify which one). Lewinsky herself got a "top secret" security clearance at the Pentagon after her affair with Clinton.

Under national security guidelines, high-risk sexual behavior can be grounds for denial of a security clearance.

The name of Lewinsky's former friend, Pentagon employee Linda Tripp, who also had a security clearance, has come up in another connection. The activist group Judicial Watch, in a report filed with the House Judiciary Committee, accuses the Pentagon of violating the Privacy Act by releasing information from Tripp's confidential personnel files to a journalist who wanted to discredit her. □

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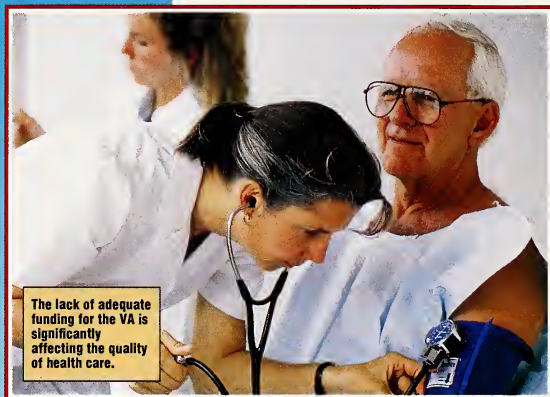
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Challenges In The 106th Congress



The lack of adequate funding for the VA is significantly affecting the quality of health care.

The Legion's
GI Bill of
Health
will channel
dollars into
VA's ailing
health-care
system

THE UNITED STATES now stands one year away from the beginning of not only a new century, but also a new millennium. The human race has made such great technological strides in just the past decade that the imagination reels.

Even more impressive, by virtue of the collapse of Russian communism in the 1990s, the United States has become the world's lone superpower. The nearly completed 20th century has already been named by some historians, without a trace of irony or arrogance, as "the American century."

As the 106th Congress begins work this month, The American Legion has several proposals which will be placed at the top of the congressional agenda.

VA Budget. Despite gradual increases in selected accounts within the Department of Veterans Affairs over the past several years, Congress and President Clinton in 1997 agreed to a balanced budget agreement which would essentially flat-line the VA's operating budget through fiscal 2002.

Congressional and administration budget experts apparently feel that because the number of veterans from the World War II and the Korean War is shrinking, fewer resources should be allocated to their care. In addition, the

VA has made a philosophical change which might have been considered radical a decade ago: to convert the VA medical system from a mostly hospital-based, inpatient system to a clinic-based, outpatient system.

Rather than cutting back medical care to older veterans, Congress and the administration should realize that they are the one segment of the veteran population most in need of VA medical care. Adequate funding is needed since the number of veterans seeking care has steadily increased in recent years. The lack of adequate funding for the VA is significantly affecting healthcare quality. These shortfalls force the VA to ration care, as well as require budgetary and personnel cutbacks in services needed to properly care for veterans.

Two years ago, the Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) was instituted to allow the VA to use third-party reimbursements to pay for certain veterans' care. However, MCCF money has been an offset to the VA's annually appropriated funds, rather than a supplement. The American Legion opposes using MCCF money to offset appropriated funds. The Legion also feels that the 1997 balanced budget agreement overestimated the amount of MCCF collections for coming years, which contributed to the essentially flatlined VA budget through 2002.

GI Bill of Health. To meet the challenges to VA health care in the 21st century, The American Legion developed the GI Bill of Health. The primary premise of the GI Bill of Health is to provide all veterans and their families with a national health-care network operated by the VA.

Veterans eligible for health care under Title 38, United States Code, would receive services at no cost. All other veterans and their families who are enrolled would redirect their healthcare dollars to the VA. The proposal would also allow veterans to purchase health care benefits packages on a premium basis. The VA would collect and retain all third-party reimbursements to supplement, rather than offset, annual discretionary appropriations. The proposal would create more access points in local communities through sharing agreements with other government agencies and contracting of services with the private sector.

Tobacco-Related Claims. In 1993, the VA's General Counsel ruled that nicotine-

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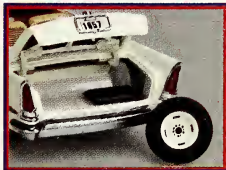
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Despite strenuous protests from Legionnaires, Congress last year denied service-connected disability ratings to veterans addicted to nicotine who now have tobacco-related illnesses.

NEWS PHOTO

America's
military
must have
resources
to attract
top-flight
people
to the ranks

addicted veterans with tobacco-related illnesses, who acquired this addiction while on active duty, could receive service-connected disability ratings. Four years later, the General Counsel decided such veterans must prove three things to be considered for service connection. They are:

- The veteran must have a tobacco-related illness
- the veteran must be addicted to nicotine
- the addiction must have existed while on active duty in the armed forces.

All three criteria must exist to be considered for service connection.

Last year, Congress agreed on legislation to deny service-connected disability ratings to veterans addicted to nicotine who now have tobacco-related illnesses. The provision was contained in Public Law 105-178, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (popularly called TEA21). Congress credited its budget with an estimated \$15.4 billion in future savings over five years from denying this benefit, then used most of the "savings" to pay for future highway improvement and related pork barrel projects.

The American Legion adamantly opposes this new law and believes it is a blatant abrogation of Congress' legal, moral and ethical responsibility to veterans. Historically, the federal government condoned, encouraged and subsidized the use of tobacco products by members of the armed forces. The DoD is still the largest distributor of tobacco products to military members and their families through military exchanges, commissaries and clubs.

In addition, less than 8 percent of tobacco compensation claims had been granted before the legislative repeal of the VA General Coun-

sel's 1997 ruling. If tobacco compensation claims were still possible and the number of claims granted remained steady, the VA would save a mere \$28 million over five years, not the \$15.4 billion assumed by TEA21.

This new law limits health care, compensation and survivor benefits to a select group of veterans. Attempts by House and Senate allies of veterans to overturn this injustice fell short during the 105th Congress. The American Legion will continue to call for a repeal of *Section 1103, Title 38, United States Code*, to restore this benefit.

Military Readiness. Since the great military buildup of the 1980s, American military forces have been reduced precipitously. Army divisions were disbanded, naval vessels mangled, aircraft wings broken up; this is the legacy of the 1990s. Many experts have compared the armed forces' current profiles to those of the "hollow forces" of the post-Vietnam War 1970s.

The American Legion is deeply concerned with this dramatic downsizing of the armed forces. Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, many defense specialists have seen a need to reduce U.S. military forces to use a so-called "peace dividend" for domestic programs. However, the elimination of the former Soviet Union as a threat has merely substituted several smaller threats for one large one. Border disputes between various nations, struggling democracies, the fragmentation of larger nations into smaller countries, ethnic warfare and nuclear proliferation in the third world; all these things put tremendous strains on world peace and place increased demands on U.S. military servicemembers, both active-duty and reserve.

Nonetheless, thousands of servicemembers are being pushed out of the military to serve the balanced budget without regard to readiness for the myriad responsibilities the armed forces have been assigned.

In testimony last October before the Senate Armed Services Committee, officers of the Joint Chiefs of Staff conceded that increased operation tempos and quality of life levels are affecting troop readiness.

As active duty forces shrink, National Guard and reserve components are increasingly filling in the critical specialties. Quality of life issues are critical to maintaining a viable total force. Many military experts feel that too much is being spent on state-of-the-art equipment and weapon systems and not enough to serve the servicemembers or their families. The American Legion adamantly opposes further cuts in defense spending or personnel levels.

—American Legion National Legislative Division staff



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DOUBLE EXPOSURE



RESEARCH RECON Members of the Agent Orange study team discuss logistics in a Columbia University office. Team members include (from left) Jane DePaolo, interview specialist; team leaders Dr. Steven Stellman and Dr. Jeanne Stellman; Francine Benjamin, military records specialist; and Tracy Weber, computer programmer.

By Anthony Miller

A DECADE after the landmark "American Legion and Columbia University Study of Vietnam Veterans," Legionnaires are teaming up again with their Columbia University colleagues for an important follow-up study.

Legionnaires are searching for Vietnam-era comrades to follow up on the five-year study of Vietnam veterans, published in 1989 in the journal *Environmental Research*. Dr. Jeanne Stellman and her husband, Dr. Steven Stellman, contradicted the government's contention that an accurate Agent Orange study was impossible since no one could determine which troops were exposed.

The 1989 study demonstrated a link between exposure to combat and herbicides in Vietnam and subsequent health problems. Thousands of veterans reported conditions that included severe skin rashes, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, high blood pressure, rare cancers and birth defects in their offspring. So why this follow-up study?

The Next Step. "We are doing what we wanted to do in 1988 when we announced our findings to Congress," Stellman says of "Herbicides in Vietnam: Developing Methods for Characterizing Exposure." "This is the next step. Hopefully, this study will allow a flurry of new medical studies to go forth that will be based on our exposure model."

Columbia University and the Stellmans are carrying out the technical work for the National Academy of Sciences and the VA to develop methods for assessing exposure. The final report is due by May 2001.

The Herbicides-in-Vietnam Study comprises five related projects, all linked to improving methods to measure Agent Orange exposure. Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. military dumped 12 million gallons of defoliants on Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to deprive the enemy of jungle cover. Agent Orange earned its moniker from the orange stripe on barrels of the defoliant troops sprayed from cargo planes, helicopters, boats, trucks, and even soldiers' backpacks.

Using troop location data and mission records detailing when and where Agent Orange was used, researchers seek to create reliable "models" that measure exposure levels. These models, says Stellman, will guide medical research and prove a valuable resource for future epidemiological studies on the health problems of Vietnam veterans.

Another study project includes developing a database using more than a half-million specific locations and dates for military units that served in the war zone. Since it's impossible now to measure exposure precisely, the data will help researchers recreate possible exposure scenarios.

New Data. The project also includes a new survey and will build on the 1984 data, collected from questionnaires sent to 12,884 Legionnaires in Colorado, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Minnesota. Researchers are interested in participants' service experience and updates on their physical and emotional health. Stellman and staff will compare the new data with the previous study, taking into account that memories and perceptions change with time.

Under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (**Public Law 102-4**), Congress required the VA to contract with an independent agency to review all medical literature on human health effects from herbicide exposure. For years, the government ignored or debunked calls for independent study of veterans and Agent Orange, until confronted by findings in The American Legion and Columbia University study. That led to passage of the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

The law requires the VA to adjudicate Agent Orange-related claims in line with the National Academy of Sciences findings. Ultimately, it makes Vietnam veterans with health problems tied to their exposure to herbicides in Southeast Asia eligible for disability compensation.

A Legion Mission. In October, American Legion National Headquarters staff members conducted a random sampling by mail of 9,000 Legionnaires in the initial study. A mailing to an additional 3,500 members is scheduled this month. Researchers also hope to collect 500 blood samples to be analyzed for traces of dioxin, a highly toxic, carcinogenic component of Agent Orange. The blood samples also will be screened to determine if tissue samples are contaminated with dioxin.

Legionnaires willing to help locate veterans from states in the original study and veterans in the original study willing to participate in the follow-up are asked to contact their Department Headquarters, The American Legion's Washington Office, (202) 861-2772, or call Columbia University, toll free, (888) 340-3050. □

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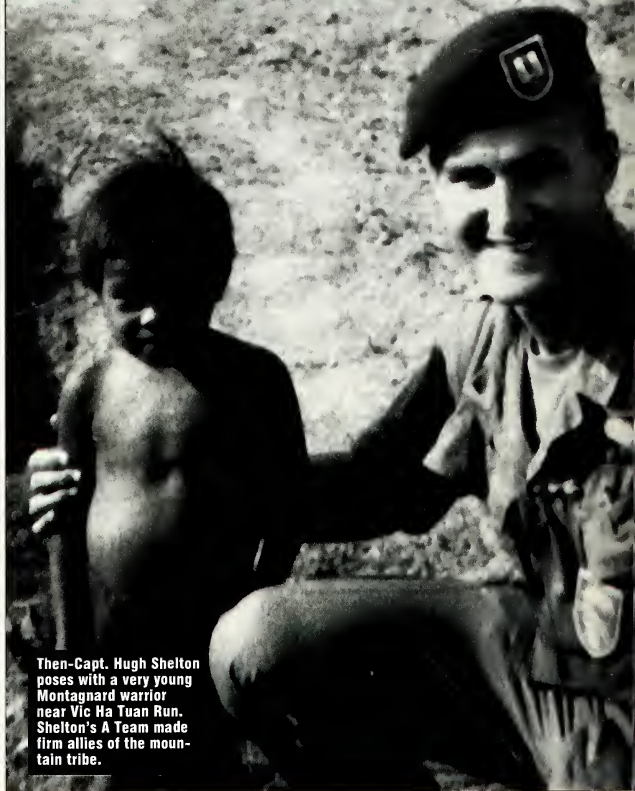
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BALLAD OF A GREEN BERET

By Robin Moore

Teamwork in the field and on the home front helped propel Henry Hugh Shelton to the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Then-Capt. Hugh Shelton poses with a very young Montagnard warrior near Vic Ha Tuan Run. Shelton's A Team made firm allies of the mountain tribe.



The A-104 Green Berets and their Montagnard liaison gather around Shelton (center) for an album photo.

COURTESY OF GENERAL SHELTON

IT WAS June of 1997. Surrounded by Green Berets, their bushmen trackers, local tribesmen and Namibian military personnel, Gen. Henry Hugh Shelton, chief of Special Operations Command, was visiting a Special Operations Forces unit near Namibia's border with strife-ridden

Angola.

Formerly known as South West Africa, Namibia, on Africa's west coast, is rich in diamonds and minerals and one of many countries assisted by American SOF.

A summons to the telephone at the Country Club Hotel in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, linked Shelton to a Pentagon official who asked if the general would like to be considered for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Before the nomination could be made official, the Washington functionary said, he needed to ask the general if there was anything in Shelton's background that might embarrass the Defense Department or any reason why he might hesitate to accept.

No reason at all, the general was about to respond. Then he remembered an incident early in his career as a Special Forces officer in Vietnam. "I do have a second 'wife,'" he con-

fessed with a chuckle.

Shelton related to the Pentagon caller that in 1967 he was captain of Green Beret Detachment A-104 on the mountainous border of Vietnam and Laos when the "marriage" took him by surprise. His 12-man Special Forces team led four companies of South Vietnamese troopers and a company from a Montagnard village against infiltrating Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars.



Shelton heads out leading a 1967 mission along the Vietnamese border. His aggressive patrolling kept Viet Cong and NVA units off-balance in the northern I Corps area.

COURTESY OF GENERAL SHELTON

Robin Moore is the author of "The Green Berets," published in 1965. A new edition, including additional historical and current material, is now available through Moore at P.O. Box 63, Concord, MA 01742.

COURTESY OF GENERAL SHELTON

BALLAD OF A GREEN BERET

The day Shelton was asked to take command, A-104's former commander had been hauled out in a straight jacket. The executive officer was missing, presumed dead, and the team sergeant was totally disoriented. That was how bad the combat had been.

Shelton was flown into A-104 at 10 a.m. to find the missing XO's decapitated body had been brought to camp and that the team sergeant was drunk. Shelton sent the sergeant back to base and reorganized his team, duly transforming A-104 into the scourge of the area.

Ceremony. Over the next few months, the Montagnards' chief took Shelton's measure. Then, at a buffalo sacrifice ceremony, a young Montagnard woman was seated close to the American commander. After they had sipped rice wine through straws for some time, the interpreter came over to Shelton and announced that the chief wanted to present this young lady, his daughter, to the captain as his wife.

"This is the greatest honor the tribesmen can bestow," the interpreter announced. "You now have a Montagnard wife. The chief also wants



The Joint Chiefs of Staff pose Dec. 18, 1997, for a portrait at their traditional meeting place, the JCS Gold Room at the Pentagon. From left: Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, Gen. Hugh Shelton, Army Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Marine Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Navy Adm. Jay L. Johnson and Air Force Gen. Michael E. Ryan.

you to know that this long house," he gestured toward a house being built in the village, "belongs to you and your new wife."

Shelton choked on the "yard" brew. To the proud chief and his new "wife," Shelton explained—through

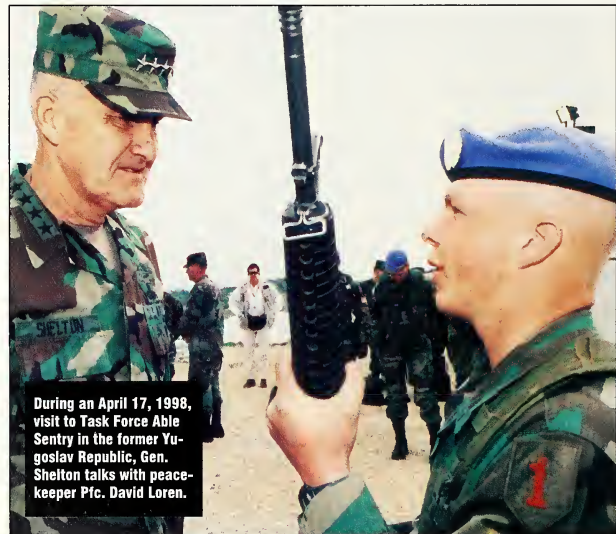
the interpreter—that he was a devout Christian and that he was married and had two small children back home. He said he recognized the great honor—but since Shelton was the "chief" to the men of A-104, he had to stay in their camp. Fortunately, the Montagnard chief seemed to understand.

The Department of Defense deputy was amused: "That was 30 years ago. There was no marriage license involved. And in any case she isn't going to come back here and testify."

Nevertheless, had the general neglected to mention the matter, there might have been a bit of a flap, given Washington's scandal-charged atmosphere. A newspaper did locate Shelton's long-retired A-104 executive officer, Jim McLeroy, who confirmed Shelton's story of a Montagnard "wife."

To a Standard. Shelton has lived by what he calls The Washington Post standard of conduct. "I always said an action ought to not only be legal; it ought to pass The Washington Post test. You should be proud to read about it in the Washington Post."

Shelton's Fort Myer quarters overlook Arlington Cemetery and Washington D.C., and the pictures of two Confederate generals, Robert E. Lee



During an April 17, 1998, visit to Task Force Able Sentry in the former Yugoslav Republic, Gen. Shelton talks with peacekeeper Pfc. David Loren.

BOB D'AMICO/REUTERS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Anything the free world can do to destroy terrorist capabilities and production of chemical and biological weapons can no longer be off limits.

and he missed the camaraderie and challenges. Even though he was working for wonderful people, he liked the Army better. With Carolyn's encouragement, he applied for a commission.

A few months later, a telegram ordered Shelton to Fort Bragg, N.C., for the Special Forces Officers Qualification Course en route to something called RVN—Vietnam.

An Officer's Career. Thus began a career that by 1994 would bring Shelton to the notice of the president and top U.S. military strategists as a result of his planning and command of "Operation Uphold Democracy." This was the Haiti mission to remove military dictator Raoul Cedras in favor of the democratically elected Jean Bertrand Aristide. Haiti had become a drug exporting center, and its impoverished citizens were fleeing to Florida shores in growing numbers.

In June of 1994, Lt. Gen. Henry

Hugh Shelton, commanding the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, was ordered to plan the take-over of Haiti. By September, wide-spread rioting had placed U.S. Ambassador William E. Swing and his staff in peril. Shelton was given the "go ahead" by Adm. Paul David Miller, commander-in-chief, Atlantic.

And then President Clinton's last-minute diplomatic mission—former President Jimmy Carter, retired Gen. Colin Powell and former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn—reported from the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince that Cedras had agreed to a peaceful landing.

Thus it was a non-violent confrontation when Shelton met Cedras the next morning. Shelton wasted no words. "You're going to cooperate with me. When I tell you to do something, you'll do it. But the second you stop doing what I tell you to do, you'll no longer get any coordination. We in fact will just do it. If you resist you'll pay a severe penalty. Do you understand?"

Cedras looked up from his notes and said, "I understand."

Shelton knew that Cedras kept his heavy weapons, artillery, mortars, mounted machine-guns and four B 150 rocket launchers at Camp d'Application, outside Port-au-Prince. So Shelton stated, "My men and I will be at Camp d'Application tomorrow morning. I want you to have whoever is in charge of the camp meet me and my officers there and turn over all of that ordnance to us. Do you understand that?"

This was the moment of truth, Shelton thought. If Cedras gave up his heavy weapons, his military capa-

and Stonewall Jackson hang on the wall. Hugh's grandmother was brought up in North Carolina just after the "War Between the States" as she insisted on calling it. She lived to be 92 and instilled in young Henry Hugh Shelton the values of integrity, honor, and courage that Robert E. Lee represented.

Hugh (the future general never liked "Henry") grew up on a farm in Tarboro, N.C., and in the neighboring town of Speed. His father, a farmer who sold farm machinery, was medically exempt in World War II. His mother was a schoolteacher who played piano in the Speed Baptist Church. Eighty years old now, she still is there every Sunday.

Shelton went to North Carolina State University where requirements included two years of ROTC. He graduated as a second lieutenant and immediately went through Ranger school, the Army's most physically and mentally demanding course. Then he married his childhood sweetheart, Carolyn.

In July, 1965, Shelton completed the mandatory two years of service and decided to try civilian life. He had majored in textiles at N.C. State and accepted a job with Regal Textile Corp. After six months, he told Carolyn he had really enjoyed the Army,

ONLY ONE OF THREE REMAINS

The Chinese Nungs who guarded Project Delta Headquarters, Nha Trang, South Vietnam, looked with pity on the replacements: 1st Lt. Hugh Shelton and two other young officers reporting for duty.

The briefing officer welcomed them to the outfit with grim advice. "Don't get to know the guy on your left or the right too well because both of those are going to die. Only one out of three lives

through their tour with Delta. We're going to train you well, but you are in a high-risk outfit."

A year later, Capt. Hugh Shelton had learned to handle fear. And after another year, he was back in Vietnam for a second tour as a company commander in the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

But the men who had been to his left and right at the Nha Trang briefing were killed in action.

—Robin Moore

BALLAD OF A GREEN BERET

bility was finished. The Haitian general hesitated. Then he looked up and with an abrupt nod said, "OK."

To make sure Cedras didn't miss the point, Shelton ordered an AC 130 helicopter gun ship to shadow Cedras, Cedras' own personal storm cloud. It unnerved Cedras, who asked Shelton why it kept circling wherever he happened to be.

"General, you'd better hope you never have to find out," Shelton replied.

Shelton's final act, after seeing Cedras off to exile, was to restore President Aristide to the presidential palace.

The operation was fine testimony to a well-trained team. As then-Secretary of Defense William Perry told Shelton later, "The only reason you could do what you did was because you had a Super Bowl team that could respond to an audible at the line of scrimmage." A great analogy, Shelton thought.

Special Operations. In February 1996, Shelton became chief of Special Operations Command in Tampa, Fla. The concept of Special Forces, Rangers, SEALs, special boat units, and air commandos under one boss was the lesson of President Carter's 1979 effort to rescue American hostages held in Tehran.

The failure of the rescue mission, blamed on its fractured command structure, made a single commander imperative for joint SOF missions.

As assistant division commander of the 101st Airborne in the Gulf War, then-Brig. Gen. Shelton participated in proving that future enemies of the United States can expect only immediate and devastating losses in any "Mother of All Battles."

But, the enemies of democracy tell themselves, there's got to be a way to get at America. The apparent answer,

asymmetric warfare, threatens America from many directions. Shelton points out that could include flooding the market with drugs, cyber attacks on computer networks, using crime rings to disrupt legal structure and bombing embassies as in Tanzania and Kenya—anything but going

toe-to-toe with U.S. conventional forces.

Terror's Future. One particularly terrifying type of asymmetric warfare would be the use of biological and chemical weapons. "We have got to become the world leader in the ability to defend against these weapons of mass destruction," Shelton avers.

One step taken recently was to retaliate for the Aug. 7 bombing of the United States embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. America launched cruise missiles against terrorist infrastructure linked to Saudi Islamic fanatic and multi-millionaire Osama bin Laden.

Cruise missiles also destroyed the Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum. "This facility," General Shelton announced, "is involved in the production of chemical weapons agents. Bin Laden has extensive ties to the Sudanese government, which controls this chemical facility."

Bin Laden is reported to have offered his terrorists \$10,000 for each American man, woman or child killed in the "fatwah" or religious war he ordered. Anything the free world can do to destroy terrorist capabilities and production of chemical and biological weapons can no longer be off limits.

If Shelton is now the best man for the job of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, surely his tall, blonde wife, Carolyn, is his ideal partner. "The military way of life makes you more of a team than any other job you could ever be in," she observes.

The mother of three boys, Carolyn learned not to show anxiety for her husband's safety during his overseas assignments. "It's all part of what makes the homecoming more precious. Those are wonderful times, and they (civilian wives) don't have that. He and I have had so many honeymoons because there have been so many separations."



Gen. Hugh Shelton and his wife, Carolyn, at their Fort Myer quarters in Arlington, Va.

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Carolyn Shelton

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FIDEL'S FAILED UTOPIA

DICTATING POVERTY

Castro's dream of a Cuba completely independent of the United States withers, although the 73-year-old dictator will not admit it.



IRRATIONAL Citizens stand in line for ration cards that might be useless since food supplies are very low.

Castro's legacy will be one of unfulfilled promises and an impoverished Cuba.

By Georgie Anne Geyer

AFTER FIDEL CASTRO marched down on Havana in January 1959, he spoke constantly of the "paradise" that he would make of poor, long-suffering Cuba. "For the first time, the republic will really be entirely free," he said grandly, as he spellbound the euphoric Cuban people. "The people will have what they deserve..."

This rough *barbudo*, who had swept down from the Sierra Maestra Mountains with a few hundred men to defeat a brutal dictatorship, seemed then to

Georgie Anne Geyer is a syndicated columnist and frequent contributor to this magazine. She's the author of the biography, "Guerrilla Prince: The Untold Story of Fidel Castro."

much of the world like a Moses parting the waters of hatred and suffering in Cuba. He would form a "democratic revolution," and above all, he would destroy the island's historic dependence upon the United States.

Those were the days of dreaming no small dreams: Castro's would be no less than the quintessential revolution for the 20th century!

By the time I saw him in the summer of 1966, it seemed the revolution, by then publicly communist, was still on Fidel's determined track.

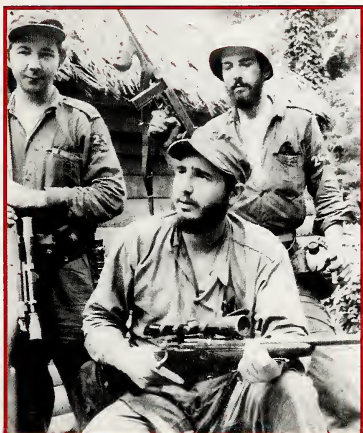
"What we are seeing is the institutionalization of the revolution," this tall, bearded figure, as always in his military uniform, told me then, in his incongruously high-pitched voice. "What I mean by that is that no one man is that important anymore. The revolution has its own momentum."

At another point, the *barbudo* revealed to me in humor his obsessive hatred of Cuba's dominant neighbor, as we talked about the imposing new ice cream parlor across the street. "We now have 28 flavors," he said, seriously. "That's more than Howard Johnson's has. That shows we can do everything better than the *americanos*." Then he went on, talking and gesticulating broadly—and a week later I was even almost saddened for the heartbreak it would cause him when Howard Johnson's dryly re-

sponded to my article, which appeared in the Chicago Daily News, "We advertise 28 flavors, but we make about 40—that should fix Fidel!"

That Was Then. In 1959 Cuba had one of the best developed economies in Latin America, along with Argentina and Uruguay—today, it is at rock bottom alongside Haiti. In 1959, Cuba had won the awed admiration of the whole world—today it is considered a comic fossil of both revolution and development. In 1959, Cuba's foreign debt was less than \$100 million—today, Castro owes more than \$10 billion to Western banks, \$30 billion to Russia and \$2 billion to the U.S. government and its citizens.

"Instead of restoring democratic rule, as he had promised from the Sierra Maestra, Castro made Cuba waste more than three decades by building a political system that has now proven to be bankrupt world-wide," Ernesto Betancourt, an early close associate of Castro's, wrote in the 1998 edition of the classic book, "Cuban Communism." "He wasted three decades as the Soviet Bloc sugar bowl, while most of Latin America developed the capacity to export a diversity of products. ... He forced almost 20 percent of the Cuban population to leave the country. He made Cuba a more repressive police state than [Gen. Fulgencio] Batista ever did. ... The Cuba he will leave is as weak and devastated as it was at the end of Spanish rule in 1898."



MOUNTAIN MARAUDER In 1957, still champion of the downtrodden peasantry, Castro and his rebels train in the mountains.

FIDEL'S FAILED UTOPIA

How could all that have happened?

First, when Castro officially adopted communism in 1962, most analysts saw this act as a

genuine ideological conversion and the idea of the Soviet Union moving into the Western Hemisphere, through Cuba, rightly terrified the United States. But in truth, Castro was nothing more than a *Fidelista* (Latin for, "First come I!") who used Moscow merely as a cash cow, using that backing to turn Cuba away from the world's consummate modern partner, the United States.

Second, by moving out all the upper classes (1960-61) and then the middle classes (1961-66)—through both nationalization and threat—he assured himself of a population that was totally dependent upon him. Then, by making little, intrinsically powerless Cuba one of the most militarized countries in the world, he built up himself as a leader in the underdeveloped world, while further impoverishing Cuba itself.

Finally, by still clinging tight to the Soviet camp when it was collapsing in the 1980s and '90s, Castro completed the circle of bankrupting Cuba.

The Economics of Oz. Foreign critics of American policy like to claim the longtime American embargo on American products to Cuba unfairly held Cuba back; but the fact is the embargo does not stop Castro from buying products, American or otherwise, anywhere in the world. No, the roots to the economic disasters of Castro's Cuba are to be found in his own incapacities and complexes. In the 1960s and '70s, for instance, he oversaw so many crazy schemes—creating "new cows" through his own eerie genetics and wholly unscientific methods, promising a huge and totally impossible "Ten Million Ton Sugar Harvest," grandiosely planting everywhere, even in impossible climes. He could make the Wizard of Oz look like a great economist.

Cuba's recent "opening" to foreign investment has also been brought to light. For example, one of the few foreign companies really producing something in Cuba is Sheritt of Canada, which is mining nickel. Under Castro's communism, the foreign company hires workers from the government;



BITTERSWEET
Sugarcane has been lucrative throughout Cuba's history, but all profit was drained in giveaways to the Soviets.

Sheritt pays \$9 a day for each worker, but it pays that amount to the government—in dollars. The workers are then paid by the government in worthless Cuban pesos the equivalent of 50 cents.

Supporters of a détente with Fidel then point to the free markets and indi-

Cuban prelate, Archbishop Pedro Neurice Estiu of Santiago de Cuba even went so far as to urge the crowds to demystify "false messianism."

But in the months following, the number of priests on the island remained the same, less than 240 for a population of 11 million; most churches remained closed, while religious education was still prohibited, and the church still had almost no access to the government-controlled media. Meanwhile, Fidel was, as always, the Machiavellian, using the "legitimization" brought by the Pope's visit to be once again feted across Latin America and indeed the world. Meanwhile, Fidel still insisted capitalism was evil and that the real alternative was "socialist globalization," another Fidel invention.

Fidel is now 73 years old. His face is more gnarled, and his beard is completely gray. At times, he seems physically weak and tentative as he travels abroad, but there is no convincing proof of any terminal disease. In the early '80s, he named his younger brother Raul as his successor, but Raul, for many years head of the Cuban military, has no hold on the people. Indeed, Fidel was always *simpatico*; Raul is considered the antithesis of charm and charisma.

Moreover, there is abundant evidence that classic Spanish caudillo Fidel in truth was very much like the old "after me, the deluge" French kings; he told Time Magazine three years ago, "I don't care what happens to Cuba after I'm gone."

But he does care about one thing: In 1985 when TV Anchorman Dan Rather suggested he had made Cuba

Castro oversaw so many crazy schemes. . . . He could make the Wizard of Oz look like a great economist.

vidual restaurants and hotels that he has recently permitted Cubans to operate. But what Fidel gives on Monday, he takes back on Thursday: One day he announces "free farmers' markets," and the world "oohs;" the next day, he closes them. For instance, four years ago, individual Cubans were allowed to open "private restaurants" in their homes—in the last year, however, the government began charging these operators \$200 a month (a huge sum in Cuba) for every room, vacant or full. With Fidel you've got to complete every "ooh" with an "ahh."

The Pope came, yes, and made a momentous historic impression. His

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TIME WARP Streets are populated with American cars of pre-Castro model years, while the once-beautiful architecture crumbles.

"one of the most dependent nations on earth," Castro smiled knowingly and said, "I agree with you, but on the inverse, because we are the most independent country of the world." Why? "Because we do not depend not even the slightest on the United States."



PAPAL POSE Pope John Paul II's visit drew huge crowds, but did little to increase the number of priests or inspire education reform.

After the Deluge. There are several scenarios about what might happen after Fidel dies. One is that a more modern leader could take over, either from within the military, which has been the only functioning institution, or the growing economic technocracy (Yes, there are "techno-communists" in today's Cuba).

A civil war might erupt within the military, which could end in any number of tragedies, particularly on an isolated island with so few natural escape routes. Parts of the Far Right in the Cuban-American community in Miami—those who still have political ambitions within Cuba itself—might plot, as they have in the past, in ways that would bring them to power on the arms of an American invasion force.

My own informed guess is that, given the situation as it stands, there will be a civil war among the various armed forces. Castro has deliberately set up separate commands: three in the regular military alone, as well as the Ministry of Interior troops and various militias under the control of local party bosses. This way, the forces of "public order" cannot coalesce against him. However, this also means there

'I don't care what happens to Cuba after I'm gone.'
Fidel Castro

could be such an absence of authority after his death that nobody would be in charge.

Meanwhile, Castro's own greatest tragedy is that today's Cuba is more dependent upon the United States than ever. The Yanqui dollar is today the country's only currency. The bankrupt state depends upon remittances from the Cubans that Fidel sent away in the 1960s. Fidel is now trying to get back at least the appearance of American investment, wooing U.S. companies and foreign investors to an island where there is no business.

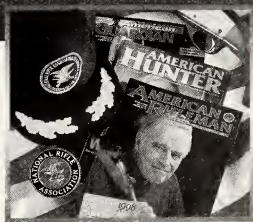
If Fidel eventually got what he "deserved"—the word he used so hopefully in the early days—the Cuban people surely did not. □

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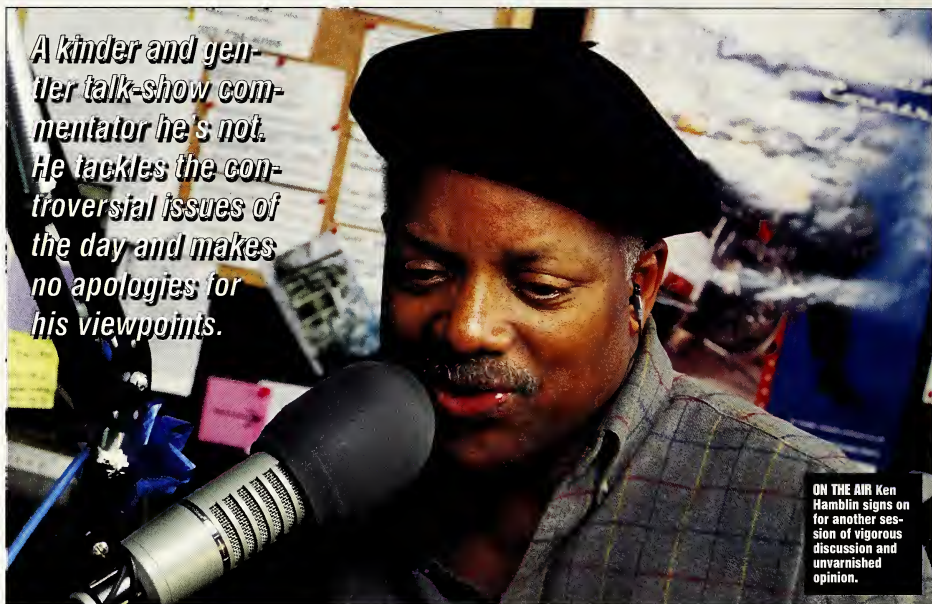


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Conscience WITHOUT Color

A kinder and gentler talk-show commentator he's not. He tackles the controversial issues of the day and makes no apologies for his viewpoints.



KEN HAMBLIN calls himself "an unassuming colored guy." Through talent and prodigious effort he moved from the poverty of Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood to become an award-winning talk show host, newspaper columnist and cinematographer.

He insists that all black Americans share America's opportunities, that they are no longer victims and that white people should stop feeling guilty about the past.

"The Ken Hamblin Show" repeatedly has been voted Denver's best talk show by Westword Newspaper. Hamblin also writes a weekly column for The Denver Post and another column distributed by the New York Times Syndicate.

In this interview with Paul Martin, Ken Hamblin tells readers of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE why all Americans should return to the day when we were grateful for the good fortune to be born in the United States and

joyously celebrated the rewards of the American dream.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: You grew up in poverty and have become successful as a radio commentator and writer. Did the America you grew up in afford these opportunities or did you have to fight to gain respect and success?

KEN HAMBLIN: America affords the opportunity, but no one ever said that it was not competitive. Of course you have to fight for opportunity. The America of opportunity still exists today, and it is the America that was passed on to me by my immigrant parents who came here from the West Indies.

Q. You speak of the myth of the so-called "hobbled" black in America. What is that myth and what is the reality?

A. The myth is that most black Americans are victims

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BECAUSE HE CAN DO IT

Ken Hamblin's middle name might well be "Controversy". While the opinions he voices often are viewed as divisive, Hamblin also has some very kind things to say about his country and fellow citizens.

"America, to me, is opportunity, fairness, compassion, human rights and the practiced notion every day that dignity is important," he says. "Our regard for the law and the rights of the needy, the homeless, the hungry are unmatched by other nations."

If you ask him what's wrong with America, he doesn't hesitate to tell you. "The notion that somehow the wealth a person amasses in a lifetime of work should be redistributed by the state — that others are entitled to a portion from the daily bread you've earned — is wrong. My granddaughter goes to a private school. Why? Because I can do it. My grandson has stock options and savings bonds. Why? Because I can do it."

"The problem is this: We have too many people in this country who sit on their hands and believe that because I can do those things, I somehow have too much money and should be punished for it."

— Paul Martin

locked out of mainstream America with no opportunity to participate in the American dream no matter how diligently they might try. That's nonsense. It's hokum that benefits people like Louis Farrakhan, John Conyers, Charlie Rangel and all the others who are desperately terrified that if they break up the plantation of the ghetto, they will have to compete politically at large.

Q. Well-known figures such as Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and Louis Farrakhan are said to be spokesmen for the African-American community. Do they or don't they accurately represent the views of mainstream African-Americans?

A. They, like myself, have no right to assume the mantle of verbal authority for any community. There's only one community I can speak for honestly and forthrightly, and that is the American experience. Beyond that, they are reflecting a perspective or philosophy that will benefit them socially, economically or politically.

Q. You have taken a lot of heat from some critics who say you have turned your back on civil rights initiatives such as affirmative action. How do you respond to such claims?

A. Today blacks live with all the benefits available to every American. Yes, life is competitive, but blacks have exceptional opportunities. That accusation is absolutely ludicrous.

Q. To what extent does racism exist today in America? How do we better bridge the gulfs between peoples of different color?

A. When you can show me a country on this planet where there is no racism, where there is no sexism, I will pay attention to the deceptive politicians, crooks and criminals destroying our courts and making the streets unsafe.

Q. You describe yourself as an American hero and living proof that America works. What do you mean by these two claims?

A. I'm an American hero and living proof that America works because I was raised on welfare, I was raised by women, I was raised in one of the toughest ghettos in America, and in the last five or 10 years each year I've paid enough taxes not just to purchase an American missile but to own the silos they're sitting in out in Wyoming. I'm an icon that the country still works.

Q. Your radio program has a large following. What makes your show different from those who follow Rush Limbaugh and other talk show hosts? Why do conservative commentators seem to be more popular with listeners?

A. Conservative commentators are you and me. It's your uncle, your grandma, the guys at the grange, the men and women in the carpool. I'm unique not because I'm black, not because I'm a race traitor, but because I hoisted my pants and walked away from communities where hope is dead, where there is no regard for human rights or individual rights.

Q. How is the civil rights movement of the 1960s different from or similar to what's going on today in the same realm?

A. It's very different from the '60s. There were clear obstacles to be overcome. There were clear verbal and physical attacks against people who look like me. Today, we've got the likes of Louis Farrakhan creating a small fiefdom for himself, keeping black people isolated in the ghetto. If we cannot make it in the United States of America in the latter half of the 20th century with all the laws to protect us, we can't make it anywhere.

Q. What are some of the real and most pressing issues facing the nation? What, in your opinion, are the non-issues Americans are bombarded with daily?

A. A real and pressing issue is the deliberate and concerted effort on the part of white liberals and black racists to drive a racial wedge between the American people along racial lines. Stone by stone, thread by thread, brick by brick they are tearing down the republic. What are you going to give me in place of America when you destroy it? They never have an answer for that. □

A MAN OF MANY INTERESTS

■ **Personal:** Age, 57; born, Brooklyn, N.Y. First generation son of West Indian immigrants; currently resides in Denver with his wife, Sue; has two children and two grandchildren.

■ **On the Shelves:** Author of "Pick a Better Country" (Simon and Schuster).

■ **Career Highlights:** Award-winning photographer, Detroit Free Press; "life on the street" photographs have been published in Time, Life and The New York Times; covered the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago; producer of film documentary "March on Washington" for national networks and the State of Michigan.

■ **Current Occupation:** Nationally syndicated talk-show host, political and social commentator, newspaper columnist.

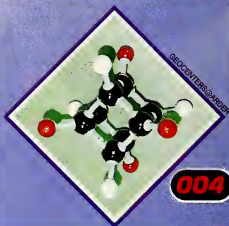
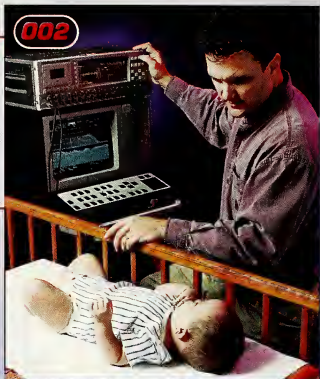
■ **Interests:** Licensed pilot, certified scuba diver, avid fly fisherman, skier and motorcyclist.



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STANDARD ISSUE

What do the Internet, virtual reality and cutting-edge AIDS – and cancer – treatments have in common? These and other innovations were developed by our military forces.



001 THE INTERNET & E-MAIL The Defense Department's ARPANET and "message communications" have evolved into vital civilian tools.

002 SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME Engineer Michael Scanlon's combination of a water bed and Navy sonar monitors an infant, summons caretakers at need and vibrates the bed to restart breathing.

003 VISIBILITY Shared research on vehicle visibility gives automakers more conspicuous autos and the Army less conspicuous tanks.

004 CUBANES Man-made molecules for explosives have shown unexpected anti-cancer and anti-AIDS activity.

005 INSIDE REACH The Air Force's neutron source, non-destructive aircraft inspection technology is used by Susan Autry at UC-Davis to treat malignant brain tumors.

By Tom Slear

LET'S START with the big enchilada, the granddaddy of military benevolence. In the early 1970s, defense contractors and research laboratories began linking their mainframe computers. Back then, the hookup was called ARPANET, in deference to the Advanced Research Projects Agency, an arm of the Defense Department that gave the network its impetus.



tions" were preferred to talking over the telephone.

ARPANET, of course, evolved into the Internet, and "message communications" became e-mail, which has done for human interaction what the remote has done for television viewing.

The Internet is but one of many marquee donations from the military. The Global Positioning System, or GPS, was conceived, developed and fielded by the Defense Department. The two dozen satellites have become a veritable worldwide utility for navigation.

With a GPS receiver—available at most electronic stores—you can determine the location of your boat, car or hunting spot anywhere in the world to within 70 meters. (The military signal provides location to within seven meters.)

Radar, the jeep, lasers, jet engines, flight simulators (along with the off-shoot, virtual reality) and airbags are some of the other, more visible donations from the military. But the underpinning of technology transfer has always been about the bit players, the products and ideas that pass from the Defense Department to the commercial marketplace with hardly a whimper.

Take something as prosaic as body dimensions. Companies involved with everything from athletic shoes to car seats to cockpits can never get enough of this kind of data. "We get calls regularly from such places as Reebok, General Motors and Sikorsky," says Steven Paquette, the anthropology coordinator at the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass.

In the late 1980s, the lab measured 9,000 male and female soldiers of every ethnic background—240 body measurements *each*. The Army undertook the ponderous effort with an eye toward designing uniforms and other personal equipment, such as rucksacks and gas masks, for a better fit.

Civilian companies, knowing the value of such data in developing more comfortable and functional

products, began calling the lab almost immediately. The calls continue today, and they won't stop anytime soon. As part of a Defense Logistics Agency effort called Apparel Research Network, Paquette and others at the Natick lab are looking into three-dimensional computerized body scanning as a means to custom-fit uniforms.

"We still have some problems; for example, converting a three-dimensional computerized image into a two-dimensional pattern," Paquette says. "But, yes, there could be a day when you walk into a local department store and walk out with a suit that fits just right."

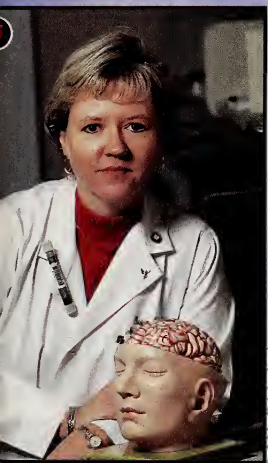
There could also be a day when driving a car will be safer because of research at the Army's Visual Perception Laboratory in Warren, Mich. The Army has always been concerned with making its vehicles less visible. Toward that end, the lab's visual model continually refined what made vehicles harder to see.

Then researchers at the lab flipped the coin, reversing the logic of the visual model to help figure out what makes vehicles more conspicuous. The lab ran a test on rear-window brake lights. General Motors was impressed, at least enough to enter into a multi-year cooperative venture to enhance driving safety.

"Right now we are looking into such things as alternative headlights and heads-up displays," says Thomas Meitzler, the lab's director. "The Army gets the benefit of the car manufacturers' vehicle technology, and the car manufacturers get use of the lab."

Such cooperative arrangements (the bureaucratic term is Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, or CREDA for short) make sense in an era of imploding defense budgets. Both military and civilian organizations contribute a share and everyone benefits. Hi-Shear Technology Corp. in Torrance, Calif., received help from the Army while developing a hand-held rescue tool

Tom Slear, a freelance writer based in Maryland, is a former contributing editor to National Defense magazine. His work has also appeared in Army Times and Boys' Life.



Ruth Hough worked for the Defense Communications Agency as an engineer in the mid-1970s, by which time data files were moving routinely among military computers throughout the world.

"It didn't take very long to realize that instead of whole files, only updates, or short pieces of information were needed," says Hough, now a vice president with ARINC, a communications technology company in Annapolis, Md. It got so that network "message communica-

strong enough to cut through reinforced bars and electrical conduits. The cutter was dubbed Life-Shear and 44 of them aided the rescue effort that followed the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Hi-Shear/Army connection made sense in that Life-Shear makes use of scaled-down cannon technology. Often, however, these cooperative ventures evolve from strange bedfellows.

The automatic target recognition system the Air Force developed to find hidden enemy tanks, aircraft and command centers is being adapted by the Cornell Medical Center in New York City to assist physicians and radiologists in detecting and classifying tumors. Similarly, the Air Force's nondestructive inspection technology, which uses neutrons generated by a small nuclear reactor to check for microscopic corrosion in aircraft, is being reapplied at the University of California-Davis Medical Center in the hope of treating malignant brain tumors.

"This is cutting edge technology," says Susan Autry-Conwell of UC-Davis' Department of Neurological Surgery. "There are clinical trials going on right now nationally and internationally."

One of the more bizarre connections

**The Army gets
the benefit of the
car manufacturers'
vehicle technology,
and the car
manufacturers get
use of the lab.**

between military technology and civilian application developed inadvertently at the Army's Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. Researchers at Picatinny design explosives. Quite literally, they want more bang for the buck. In their search for the perfect bang (big boom, low weight, no residue), they lusted after cube-shaped, manmade molecules called cubanes.

But cubanes were labor intensive. Half a gram required some 30 steps and a year's worth of work by a half dozen scientists. In 1994, researchers at Picatinny simplified the process to a few days and a handful of steps. They had their Holy Grail, and an unexpected bonus as well.

Explosive materials are usually quite toxic, so researchers at Pi-

catinny sent the cubanes to The National Institutes of Health for tests. Surprisingly, not one of the 150 compounds came up positive. That news was followed a short time later by another shocker.

NIH routinely tests for anti-AIDS and anti-cancer activity. Two of the cubane compounds showed promise. From more powerful explosives to a possible cure for AIDS—who would have thought? The Army promptly entered into a cooperative research agreement with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City to explore the AIDS angle further.

"Basically, the cubane provides a warhead," says Dr. Harris Goldstein, a professor at the college. "When it's linked to a molecule that will guide it to a specific cell, the cell is destroyed, be it a cancerous cell or an HIV-infected cell. It's a neat concept, though there are a lot of developmental issues that have to be resolved."

Another connection is nearly as unusual: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Navy sonar, and an engineer at the Army's research laboratory in Adelphi, Md.

The engineer, Michael Scanlon, developed a sensor pad consisting of a Navy sonar microphone inside a water-filled bag. The water conducts sound, picking up an infant's heartbeat, breathing, voice, and movement with little interference. The beauty of the pad is that it requires no attachments to the baby. If the infant's heartbeat or breathing stops, an alarm alerts the parents. Meanwhile, the pad begins vibrating to prompt the baby to breathe. A civilian company has already procured a license for technology. The Army hopes one day to use a variation of the pad to continuously monitor the heart rate and breathing of wounded soldiers.

The idea came to Scanlon while sitting on a water bed in a store. When he moved, the entire bed moved. At the time he was working with the Navy on a sonar program. He realized the possibility of combining a sonar sensor with a vibrator in a water-filled pad. After that, as Scanlon says, "Everything just came together."

And everyone, military and civilian, will benefit. □



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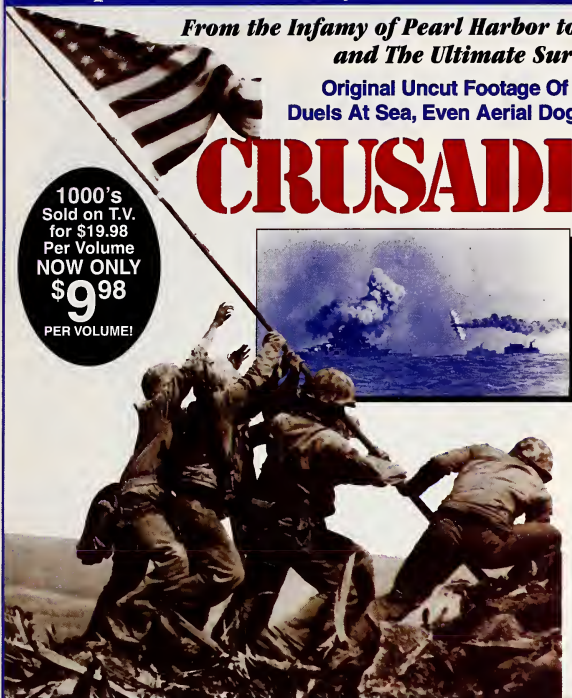
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SHOULD THE CUBA TRADE EMBARGO BE LIFTED?

Rep. Lincoln Díaz-Balart (R-Florida)



NO THE CUBAN people suffer under the harsh yoke of Castro's failed version of communism. There is no question that life under Castro is miserable and worsening. Food rationing, housing shortages and the fear of being hauled off to jail for criticizing the government are daily reminders of the

police state 90 miles from our shores.

It appears some in the United States are forgetting the battles the brave men and women of our armed services fought to preserve our freedoms. The struggle against communism and totalitarian dictatorships did not end with the fall of the Soviet empire. Our victories were won so we and others might be free.

In Washington, we frequently hear from so-called experts about the shifting dynamic of the Cuba debate. During the six years I've been in Congress, predictions about the end of the embargo have never stopped, and there are some who ignore the reality of Cuba today. These misguided individuals want to do business with the tyranny, exploit Cuban workers and keep the Cuban people under the slavery of communism.

The embargo against Castro is the most important leverage for freedom available to Cubans in their struggle to bring about a democratic society. The destruction of the Cuban economy is a daily reminder of the failure of Castro's brutal and totalitarian communist policies. The promise of immediate and open access to the U.S. market is a powerful incentive for change.

I have heard many misleading arguments on why we should end the embargo. These are made by people who cloak their desire to make money from the Cuban "apartheid economy" by claiming to argue on behalf of Cubans. In reality, the only reason the Cuban economy is in shambles and people are struggling to find enough food is that the Castro dictatorship has pillaged Cuba for 40 years and destroyed what was previously the most advanced economy in Latin America.

The overwhelming majority in Congress strongly opposes the Castro tyranny and stands firmly on the side of the Cuban people. With Castro reaching the end of his brutal existence, ending the embargo unilaterally, without waiting until the Cuban people achieve their freedom, would be like snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. When there is a government in Cuba that seeks to normalize relations with its own people, the U.S. embargo will constitute the most important leverage available to the people; when it happens, I will be at the forefront of ending the embargo. □

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-New York)



YES THE AMERICAN people might recall that earlier this year I publicly praised President Clinton's decision to ease restrictions on humanitarian assistance to Cuba. I went a step further, as well, urging the president to go further in regards to

that island nation.

The president should be commended for adopting the spirit of the papal visit to Cuba last January and also for making it easier for Cuban-Americans to assist their families in Cuba and for humanitarian organizations to get supplies to the island.

This is the time for the president to seize the initiative and put the full weight of his presidency behind a change in policy toward Cuba.

A sizable delegation of Cuban-Americans visited Washington earlier this year to lobby in support of **HR 1951**, the bipartisan legislation to remove restrictions on the donation and sale of food, medicines and medical equipment.

They were successful in their efforts, and the Cuban people will benefit from their actions. I cosponsored that bill and am the author of **HR 3173**, a bill to lift the embargo entirely.

I learned much during my trip to Cuba last January, which coincided with the historic visit by Pope John Paul II.

I spent many hours talking with the people of Cuba, and the one thing they were all opposed to was the embargo. Whatever their feelings politically, they agreed that the embargo was not helping them or making their lives any easier.

As the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, which shares jurisdiction over such legislation, I have encouraged hearings on these bills in the Subcommittee on Trade. In 1995, at my request, the subcommittee convened a hearing on the potential for trade with Cuba.

There's no argument that the embargo on Cuba has failed.

Indeed, it has worked against the interests of the Cuban people and the interests of the United States.

Just as President Clinton is opening a new era of relations in other areas of the world, an era of respect and mutual interest, we should be doing the same with Cuba. □

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PROGRESS IN KOREA MIA EFFORTS REPORTED



IN SEARCH OF Members of the American delegation receive a briefing on the Joint U.S.-DPRK Remains Recovery Operation at an excavation site 100 miles north-northwest of Pyongyang.

© MICHAEL SCHLEE

By Terry Coffey

GENERAL consensus for renewed cooperation next year.

That's how The American Legion's top staffer on Department of Defense issues described the atmosphere in efforts to repatriate remains of American servicemen missing in the Korean War. G. Michael Schlee, the director of The American Legion's National Security-Foreign Relations Division, was part of a U.S. delegation of veteran service organizations and family representatives that traveled to North Korea in late October to check on the progress of excavations and repatriation. "Currently, they are cooperating to a certain extent, and we urged them to increase their joint-excavation activities with U.S. personnel in 1999," said Schlee.

One of the highlights of the group's stay was a trip to an excavation site about 100 miles north of North Korea's capital of Pyongyang, where the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division operated. "The location was one of 25 sites excavated, which had yielded the remains of 13 Americans," said Schlee. In fact, "the remains of two Americans, including a skull, had been recovered earlier [that] day," he added.

Maj. J.R. Robinette, the on-site commander of the U.S. military team handling the excavation, said that local villagers had discovered the remains and informed the Korean People's Army, which had in turn informed the Americans — evidence of the improving relations between U.S. teams and the KPA.

KPA Senior Col. Pak Rim Su, North Korea's top on-site official, set a goal of repatriating the remains of 100 Americans in the coming year. However, Pak also said that if America is truly serious about rapid resolution, it should devote a greater amount of the U.S. defense budget.

Similar rhetoric was used by other North Korean representatives, including Cha Song Ja, acting director of the Institute for Peace and Disarmament. According to Schlee, Cha believes it would be symbolic and important for U.S. veterans to donate funds or materials to demonstrate good faith to the Korean people. And despite budget problems, relocation of families and the aging of witnesses, Cha did "express some optimism for future humanitarian recovery efforts."

Schlee and other members of the U.S. team countered North Korean efforts to link money and repatriation by focusing on "expanded joint recovery operations, continuing U.S. presence in Pyongyang, access to records, access to Americans in [North Korea], further information on

specific loss cases and archival and information access."

Schlee was quick to point out that Americans working on the joint recovery efforts have been doing an outstanding job, despite sometimes difficult surroundings.

Members of the delegation hoped to become the first Americans to visit the Chosin reservoir area since battles there in late 1950, but poor weather prevented the trip. Instead, the group was taken on a propaganda tour of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

The museum, which includes captured U.S. equipment from the Korean War and other Cold War displays, is another point of contention. Americans have been allowed limited access to museum archives that might aid in review efforts, including records of downed American aircraft. There is hope increased access might be allowed in the near future.

The American Legion continues to support the fullest possible accounting of all American MIAs. That means, according to **Resolution 218**, approved at the 1998 National Convention, "turning over live prisoners, repatriating remains of those who were killed in action or died in captivity, or providing a valid, conclusive report when neither is possible."

In addition to Schlee, the U.S. delegation included three representatives from the Defense Department's POW-MIA Office and one representative each from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Amvets, Korean War Veterans Association, Chosin Few, Korean-Cold War Association of the Missing, and the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POWs and MIAs. □

Terry Coffey is an assistant editor of this magazine.

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MAN'S GAME. THAT'S
WHY I HAVE SO MUCH
FUN WHUPPING THEM."**

**TOM HOLIDAY,
PUGILIST, 66**

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Pilot Project Helps Women Veterans Land Jobs

AMERICA is known as the land of second chances. No segment of the American population rates a second chance more than its veterans, and under a VA program, women veterans will get a second chance at independence through employment.

Last fall, members of The American Legion's National Executive Committee encouraged Legion participation in a pilot project for women veterans on probation or work release, particularly the segment of minority, homeless or poor women veterans most in need of help. **Resolution 5 (VA&R, Fall NEC, 1998)** authorizes the Legion to apply for grants through the Veterans Health Administration, which has up to \$100,000 to spend on five pilot programs nationwide. The VHA's Compensated Work Therapy initiative

develops partnerships with local community groups, including non-profit organizations such as The American Legion, and state and federal agencies. The goal is to help women veterans on probation and in alternative-sentencing and work-release programs.

The grants will pay for CWT staff to work in women's prisons, probation departments, courts and halfway houses. They will place their clients in CWT programs that offer vocational training and other skills these women veterans need to lead productive lives and rejoin the communities they worked to defend.

States that match the CWT criteria include California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Georgia, Michigan, Massachusetts and Oregon. The American Legion maintains prison Posts in Minnesota, Indiana, New York, Colorado and Tennessee.

Vet Preference Strengthened

TO FOLLOW up on last month's item on important federal veterans preference legislation ("Employment Bill Works Well for Vets"), the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 became law Oct. 31, 1998.

The measure is the most formidable veterans preference legislation since the original provisions laid down by the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the original GI Bill of Rights.

"This nation made the decision 50 years ago to recognize the sacrifices and extra commitment made by our veterans for our country," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. "This law ensures that special recognition," added Hagel, who sponsored the Senate bill last spring along with a fellow veteran, Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga. Veterans' groups also extended thanks to the House sponsor, Florida Republican Rep. John Mica.

The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act adds points to a veteran's civil service examination, and, most importantly, extends veterans preference provisions to non-political federal jobs, including legislative and judicial branches of government, plus the General Accounting Office. Before enactment,

only the executive branch was bound by veterans preference guidelines.

Enforcing provisions of the original veterans preference laws had become a frustrating force for veterans shut out of job competition by agencies that routinely skirted the law. Under the new statute, veterans whose preference rights are violated can seek redress through the federal courts. In addition, hiring personnel now are legally prohibited from violating veterans preference rights.

The new law also expands employment opportunities for disabled veterans and Vietnam and Persian Gulf-era veterans with vendors doing business under federal contracts.

ALSO FROM December's Veterans Update files: The VA has filled its quota for participants in its testing program for plutonium exposure among veterans involved in atmospheric nuclear testing, or who were members of occupation forces stationed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

For more information about the testing program, contact the VA's Nuclear Test Personnel Review office, at **(800) 462-3683**.

France Honoring 'Doughboys'

MOST of the old warriors are gone, and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I is history.

According to the VA, nearly half of the 4,800 surviving U.S. World War I veterans (they include 460 women) served on French soil or in its territories during the war, making them eligible for the National Order of the Legion of Honor (Chevalier).

The order will not be awarded posthumously, say embassy officials. The Department of Veterans Affairs is supporting this effort by helping French embassy officials in Washington verify the applicants' service records. While the VA is working with French officials, the French government will determine awards of the Legion of Honor to U.S. veterans.

For a form and instructions, write (no phone calls, please) to: Embassy of France, Project "1918-98," 401 Reservoir Road N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007-2151.

VA Secretary Togo West Jr. has pledged the VA's support in helping veterans and their families with questions about submitting the application; call the VA, toll-free, at **(800) 827-1000**.

In Some Cases, Surviving Spouses Can Retain DIC Benefits

A RECENT VA General Counsel ruling brought bad news on healthcare, education and home loan benefits for veterans' surviving spouses who remarry. At issue is an amendment to **Title 38** provisions tacked on to the massive highway bill Congress passed last fall. **Public Law 105-178** amends **Title 38**,

United States Code provisions concerning restoration of dependents and indemnity compensation benefits for surviving spouses who remarry. Under the revision, **section 1311**, remarriage doesn't bar eligible surviving spouses from receiving DIC payments if the subsequent marriage ends by death,

divorce or annulment.

The VA General Counsel, however, ruled last October that the new section applies only to DIC. A remarried surviving spouse does not regain eligibility for medical care under CHAMPVA, Chapter 35 educational assistance or VA home loan guaranty.

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FACING OUR MORAL CRISIS!



FOR VETERANS National Commander Miller tells NEC members that now is the time to stand up for the flag and veterans' health issues.

JOHN E. SWAN

NEC reinvigorates Legion crusades for 'Old Glory,' veterans and America's moral future.

T

HE NATIONAL Executive Committee of The American Legion was called to defend American values and protect our flag and our fellow veterans during its Fall meeting in Indianapolis.

The NEC responded, "America is in a state of moral crisis," National Commander Butch Miller told NEC members. "And at times such as these, righteous people must stick to their guns because our cause is at stake. And the cause is everything we believe in."

Miller spoke just a week after he testified before Congress on key veterans' issues. It was also less than a week after the Senate failed to bring to a vote a proposed constitutional amendment that could halt flag desecration. The Commander vowed an amendment resolution now will be brought before both houses of Congress in January and sent to the states for ratification in 1999.

"Our cause is the work of hard-working, tax-paying parents who try very hard to raise their kids to respect the values that men and women died defending," Miller said. "We cannot have a society in which five judges in black robes overrule the teachings of you as parents, of your parents and your grandparents."

In 1989 the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, repealed the right to protect the flag from physical desecration.

Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady, Medal of Honor recipient and chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance—a nonprofit group spearheading efforts to restore the right of flag protection—also spoke of the moral crisis facing our country.

"To burn an American flag is a sign of moral weakness in an individual," Brady told the NEC. "To legalize the burning of the American flag is a sign of moral weakness in America."

Brady challenged Legionnaires to leave no lie unchallenged in the debate over an amendment. He

said every dime spent in the effort to reestablish the right to protect the flag has been worthwhile. The campaign has created much "collateral good" by organizing efforts touching the lives of patriotic citizens everywhere.

Dan Wheeler, CFA president, read an essay from Jared Beck, an 11-year-old boy living in Mount Ayr, Iowa, who recalled a Friday night he and Iowa's NEC member Bill Rusk attended a high-school football game. Beck, a sixth grader, wrote that he and the other children in his class had been invited to carry flags onto the field at a varsity football game in September. The flag display was sponsored by The American Legion.

"In my mind I was thinking, 'Hot Dog!' this is just the thing for me to do," the letter read. "My father and grandfather have always taught me to respect the flag and what the colors stand for. Blue is for loyalty, White is for purity and Red, courage...I must admit, I was a little bit nervous as well as excited when my grandfather took me to the field. To my astonishment, I found that I was the only sixth grader there. Mr. Rusk then says, 'Even if it's just you and me boy, we'll do it.' My heart began to sink as I saw more and more of my sixth-grade classmates come and make their way to the stands instead of coming onto the field. Soon, I noticed two other students were standing next to Mr. Rusk. I could see the pride in his face as we took the flags in our hands and slowly began the march across the field."



COUNTER WITH TRUTH Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady declares during the Fall NEC meeting that "no lie must be left lying" in the debate over flag protection.

JOHN E. SWAN

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FALL MEETINGS '98



PROGRESS Chester Stellar, Ohio, VA & R chairman, tells the session that parts of the GI Bill of Health have been implemented.

JOHN E. SIMON

Legion's Junior
Shooting Sports
program draws
59 more clubs.

Wheeler told the NEC that it shouldn't be surprising only three sixth-graders took the field with Old Glory; Jared Beck and his classmates have been raised in a world where it is legal to desecrate the flag.

"For virtually all his life the media has been telling him the flag is nothing more than a symbol," Wheeler said. "...I wonder if his children or grandchildren will understand why we would call our flag 'Old Glory.'"

The American Legion legislative agenda also includes passage of a GI Bill of Health to assure adequate medical care for veterans and families into the 21st century. Chester Stellar (Ohio), chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, reported to the NEC that several provisions of the Legion-sponsored effort have been implemented, including greater ambulatory care services for eligible veterans and more revenue sources for VA health care. But much work remains to be done.

NEC members approved a proposal from the Finance Commission to buy land at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. The property will be the site of a new building for Haynes and Partners Communications—a Legion-owned direct-mail division—and the Emblem Sales Division. The project would alleviate space problems faced by both operations. Total cost of the expansion is expected to be under \$4.1 million.

Joseph E. Caouette Jr., Chairman of the Americanism Commission, reported 59 additional shooting clubs have joined The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program, and more than 5,000 baseball teams are registered in American Legion Baseball, with participation by nearly 92,000 young people.

Jeffrey L. Olson (Minn.), chairman of the Convention Commission, reported that many Legionnaires at the National Convention in New Orleans told officials they wanted the event scheduled before the Labor Day weekend. In order to comply, dates for the 2002 convention in Charlotte, N.C., have been reset for Aug. 23-26, 2002.

Excluding strictly "housekeeping" measures, the policy and program resolutions approved by the National Executive Committee Oct. 14-15 include:

Americanism

(Chairman Joseph E. Caouette Jr., New Hampshire)

Res. 33 Calls for an amendment to the United States Flag Code.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

(Chairman Chester F. Stellar, Ohio)

Res. 1 Urges the VA to provide presumptive service-connection for cold-related injury.

Res. 2 The American Legion policy on exposure to ionizing radiation.

Res. 4 Supports special pensions for American veterans of World War I.

Res. 5 Details Legion participation in the Compensated Work Therapy Pilot Program.

Res. 6 supports exemption from co-payment for former POWs who receive their prescriptions from VA hospitals, clinics or outpatient facilities.

Res. 7 Calls for legislation to extend eligibility for health care to Purple Heart recipients.

Economics

(Chairman Ray Smith, North Carolina)

Res. 29 Urges Congress to amend the Internal Revenue Code and extend the Home Loan program to Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and Persian Gulf veterans.

Res. 30 States The American Legion policy on promoting veterans' preference in state civil service employment.

Internal Affairs

(Chairman Herman G. Harrington, New York)

Res. 11 Urges North Carolina's Highway Historical Advisory Committee to approve and fund a marker in honor of the late PNC Henry L. Stevens Jr. (1931-32), the state's only National Commander of The American Legion.

National Security

(Chairman Allen L. Titus, Indiana)

Res. 14 Recommends that Congress increase resources to enhance military readiness, quality of life and modernization.

Res. 16 Opposes United Nations gun-control measure.

Res. 17 States The American Legion policy on maintaining military cemeteries in the United States.

Finance

(Chairman George W. Boucek, Illinois)

Res. 22 Authorizes expenditure of \$27,000 for participation in the uniformed musical groups during the 1999 National Convention parade.

Res. 23 Reaffirms commitment to gain constitutional protection for the U.S. Flag.

For a copy of the complete text of any resolution, write to: The American Legion, Attn: Library Section, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; or by e-mail: library@legion.org.

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Tribute to Tennessee Veterans Spans the Globe

RESTING on a cushion of water in the middle of Tennessee is a replica of everything America's World War II generation saved—the world.

It's there because The American Legion and retired Army Maj. Gen. Hugh Mott, two parties who did their part to win the war, worked to assure that those who fought and died would not be forgotten.

Legionnaires, in a campaign Mott spearheaded, helped create a striking memorial to honor Tennessee's sons and daughters who served in the great 20th century struggle. It lies in the Bicentennial Capitol Mall at Nashville and features an eight-ton black granite globe engraved to represent the world of the early 1940s. Included are sites that bear names such as Guadalcanal, Midway and Normandy. The distances from Tennessee to the great battles are also etched in stone. Suspended in its fountain, the granite planet can be turned by the touch of a child's hand.

Embedded in the marble floor surrounding the globe are gold stars. Along the sides of the 80-foot plaza are 10 granite

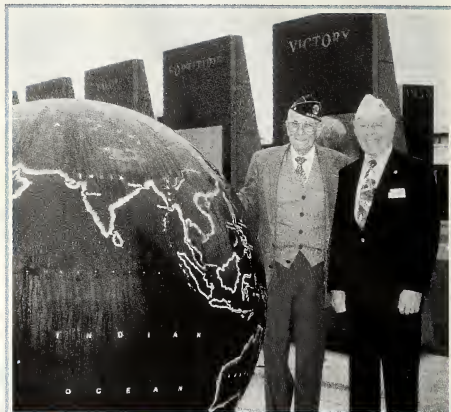
pylons, each depicting a different element of the war and featuring photography from that time. By the war's close, 5,731 service members from Tennessee had given their lives.

Mike Hammer, Adjutant for the Department of Tennessee, says the Memorial means a great deal to veterans throughout the state and that Mott's efforts were instrumental in making it a reality.

It all took several years and \$1.5 million to make the Memorial a reality. Service organizations, corporations, civic groups and individuals all contributed, and the State of Tennessee matched their donations. Also spent along the way was a great deal of energy from Legionnaires throughout the state and Mott, a member of Post 5 in Nashville.

"I spent three months at Legion headquarters," Mott says of his time at the Department of Tennessee writing letters asking for donations. "I wrote to the various Legion Post commanders. We just kept pushing all the time; that was the main thing."

The tribute to World War II veterans was long overdue, Mott says, and organizers wanted to do more than



Hugh Mott, retired Army Major General and a member of Post 5 in Nashville, and Jennings B. Loring, Past Department Commander of Tennessee, stand by the 8-ton granite depiction of the world at war—part of the \$1.5 million World War II memorial Mott campaigned to create.

erect a statue of a soldier.

When Mott's pushing was done, the Legion in the Volunteer State had raised nearly \$115,000 toward construction of the Memorial, which was dedicated on Veterans Day in 1997. The Legion exceeded its contribution goal of \$100,000. Three other veterans organizations also had \$100,000 goals, but none came close.

With the help of Department staff, Mott launched an effective mail campaign, and many American Legion Posts and individuals with contributions of \$5,000 or more now have their names in stone at the Memorial site.

The Memorial is now fully funded, and the State of Tennessee is responsible for its maintenance.

Mott saw action as an Army lieutenant in the European Theater. His record included a part in securing, for

the first time in the drive on Berlin, a bridge across the Rhine. Mott received the Distinguished Service Cross for his efforts to save the railway bridge at Remagen in Germany, notes Hammer. That bridge provided a crossing for Allied forces and was crucial to an expeditious ending of the war.

After the war, Mott continued to serve his community and country. He became police chief of Nashville and Adjutant General of the Tennessee National Guard.

"I'm no hero; I'm just one of those lucky GIs who made it through," Mott says. "The heroes are the ones lying under white crosses around the world."

Thanks to the efforts of Mott, Hammer and The American Legion in Tennessee, those heroes won't be forgotten.

—David Penticuff



Tennessee's World War II Memorial stands proudly in Nashville's Bicentennial Capitol Mall.

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Still Marching to a Different Drummer

ON MEMORIAL Day morning, 1992, Harry Plows climbed into his car to drive down to Johnstown, Pa., Central Park where he again raised the American flag in an act of

rarely noticed patriotism.

Along the way, Plows, an Army veteran of World War II and a member of American Legion Post 137 in Wimber, Pa., began wondering why Johnstown no longer had a Memorial Day or Veterans Day Parade, as it and so many communities once did.

"It was 8 o'clock in the morning," he recalls. "There's not much traffic on Memorial Day at that time of the morning."

So Harry Plows decided to start a parade—all by himself.

That day and on each Memorial Day since, Plows donned his uniform and marched in his own parade of one down Main Street in Johnstown.

He was, he frankly admits, trying to attract attention and inspire others to take up the

cause of restoring parades to honor service members. The community had been without a Veterans or Memorial Day parade for more than a decade, he says.

"I'm thinking to myself to just get it started; get a policeman to arrest me; get some publicity," he says. Attract enough attention to get others to come out and organize a big parade and remember fallen comrades.

Finally, more than five years after he started marching, a local legislator spearheaded efforts to organize a parade in Johnstown on Veterans Day. It started in 1997 and Plows, of course, was chosen grand marshal.

"They wanted me to ride in a car," the 76-year-old says. "I told them I'd march, up front."

Plows, a veteran of the Sicilian and Italian campaigns of World War II plans to be in each annual parade. But he is still not afraid to march by himself to a different drummer if that's what it takes to pay tribute to veterans.

"I'm still going to march up Main Street on Memorial Day," he says.

—David Penticuff



Harry M. Plows alone stands ready to march through Johnstown, Pa. Plows' solo marches on Memorial Day helped reinstitute patriotic parades in his hometown.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Legion Helping Tomorrow's Leaders Today

THE AMERICAN LEGION family and the South Korean company Samsung have again chosen 12 of America's top high school scholars to each receive a \$20,000 scholarship to pursue an undergraduate college education.

Samsung American Legion National Scholars were chosen from a national "pool" of 100 applicants on Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C., by a committee of Samsung, American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary representatives. Applicants all participated in either American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs.

The awards are based on academic performance, financial need and school and community involvement. High school juniors who complete a Boys State

or Girls State program also must be direct descendants of wartime veterans to be eligible.

This year's National Scholars are:

Matthew A. Barreau, Thurston High School, Springfield, Ore.; Abby Lynn Blum, East High School, Sioux City, Iowa; Darin Bringham, Meade High School, Meade, Kan.; Melinda F. Coker, Portland High School, Portland, Tenn.; James W.B. Herron, North Branford High School, Northford, Conn.; Christopher W. Jewell, Logan High School, Logan, Utah; Rebecca Sue Keith, Saint Mary's High School, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Roy O. Mears, Darby High School, Darby, Mont.; Rebekah J. Ryan, Mountain View High School, Mesa, Ariz.; Timothy J. Vasil, Tantasqua Regional High School, Fiskdale, Mass.; Dara N. Wakefield, Win-

ston County High School, Double Springs, Ala.; Krysta L. Webster, Dillon High School, Dillon, S.C.

Since the program began in 1996, The American Legion and Samsung have awarded 33 scholarships totaling \$660,000. The scholarships are derived from earnings on a \$5 million Samsung endowment. The giant electronics firm joined with The American Legion in 1995 to offer scholarships to direct descendants of honorably-discharged wartime veterans in recognition of the sacrifices of American servicemen and women during the Korean War.

For more information about the Samsung/American Legion Scholar program, contact your Post Boys State or Unit Girls State chairman; or call National Headquarters at (317) 630-1207.

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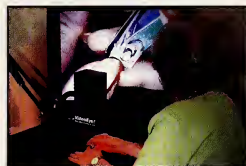
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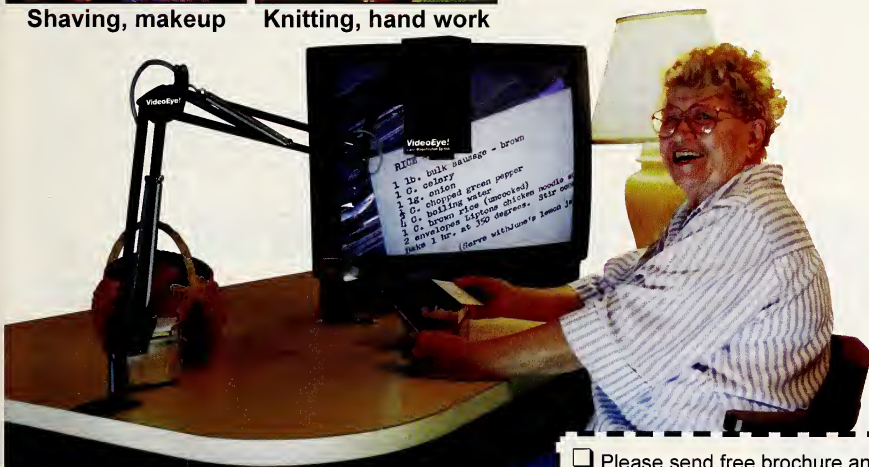


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Giving Better Lives to Our Nation's Children

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 44th year of helping America's children, awarded \$379,450 to 23 non-profit organizations in 1998.

Grants awarded to support projects included:

Alton Ochsenr Medical Foundation of New Orleans was awarded \$7,000 for a project entitled "Radiation Therapy Coloring Book for Children With Cancer."

APHS-American Pseudo-obstruction & Hirschsprung's Disease Society of Manchester, Mo., was awarded \$15,000 for its project, "APHS - Community Outreach Program" to provide educational information and support to children/families faced with the rare disorder.

Children Awaiting Parents, Inc. of Rochester, N.Y., was awarded \$25,000 for "Families for America's Waiting Children." This grant will produce and distribute Children Awaiting Parents Directories.

Children's Express Foundation, Inc. of Washington,

D.C., \$8,000 for "Children's Express: Child Health Radio Program."

Children's Haven and Adult Community Services, Inc. of Sarasota, Fla., \$10,200 for "Targeted Nutritional Intervention for Down Syndrome."

Children's Medical Center of Dallas, \$7,500 for "Anticipating & Understanding the Long-Term Effects of Radiation and Chemotherapy in Survivors of Childhood Brain Tumors."

Erikson Institute for Advanced Study in Child Development of Chicago, \$24,000 for "Help for Children Growing Up With Violence."

Glaucoma Research Foundation of San Francisco, \$15,100 for "Protecting Sight, Supporting Families: The Childhood Glaucoma Booklet."

Goldenrod Hills Community Services of Wisner, Neb., \$1,400 for "Goldenrod Hills Gazette." This grant will develop and distribute a four-page newsletter on nutritional information for pregnant women and early childhood development.

Guardians of Hydrocephalus Research Foundation of Brooklyn, N.Y., \$35,000 for "Hydrocephalus—a better understanding."

Central Montana Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Lewiston, Mont., \$750 for "Baby Changing Stations in Dad's Restrooms."

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Los Angeles, \$15,400 for "My Best Friend Has Diabetes."

Michael's House of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, \$22,000 for "Supporting Grieving Children Video."

Mercy Medical Airlift of Manassas, Va., \$15,800 for "Medical System Awareness - Child Charitable Medical Air Transportation."

National Crime Prevention Council of Washington, D.C., \$20,000 for "A Tool Kit for Safe Teens: Tools Communities Can Use to Prevent Youth Violence."

Quince of Prevention Fund of Chicago, \$24,800 for "Safer Start Publication and Distribution."

Pittsburgh Vision Services of Pittsburgh, \$3,000 for "Pre-

school Vision Screening Book."

Project OZ of Bloomington, Ill., \$25,500 for "Best Practices: Violence Prevention for High School."

The American Legion Department of Kansas, Topeka, Kan., \$24,000 for "Drug Free American Ruler Bookmark."

The Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Bethesda, Md., \$15,000 for "The Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation's annual newsletter."

The National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Toledo, Ohio, \$15,000 for its project entitled "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Educational Campaign."

THINK FIRST Foundation of Park Ridge, Ill., \$25,000 for "THINK FIRST for KIDS"—an innovative program designed by injury prevention experts to teach children in grades 1-3 proper safety behavior.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness of Hunt Valley, Md., \$25,000 for "The Fighting Blindness News."



Wilbur Walker, In Memoriam

FORMER American Legion National Vice Commander Wilbur Walker passed away Nov. 10. He was 84.

Walker, a member of South Richmond, Va.,

Post 137, was elected National Vice Commander Aug. 26, 1976, at The American Legion's 58th National Convention in Seattle. Walker was chief clerk of Selective Service Board No. 8 for the city of Richmond until his induction into the mil-

itary in May 1944. Following his service in the infantry, Walker began his long and fruitful involvement with The American Legion. The local positions he held included Post Adjutant, Finance Officer, Vice Commander and Commander. Walker also served as adjutant for the Department of Virginia on four occasions, as well as chairman of the Department's Legislative and Internal Affairs committees.

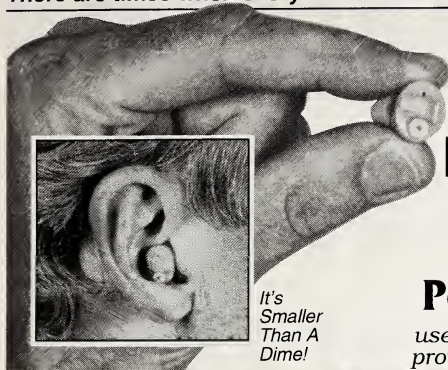
On the national level, Walker chaired the National Legislative Council from 1975-94, with a break for his term as a National Vice Commander, 1976-77.

Walker, a dedicated public servant, was supervisor of enforcement for the Office of Price Administration, Virginia's Deputy Fire Marshal and chief investiga-

tor for the Virginia Bureau of Insurance Arson Division. During the Korean War, Walker was a special agent in charge of investigations for the Office of Price Stabilization. He also served as administrative assistant to Virginia Gov. J. Lindsay Almond from 1958-62, and to U.S. Rep. Dan Daniel from 1969-73.

During his years of service to The American Legion, Walker was a key participant in constructing a memorial on the spot where, during the Civil War, "Taps" was composed and first sounded. He twice accompanied U.S. officials on inspection tours of South Vietnam. Walker received the Legion's highest award, The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, in 1984. □

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by Martin Howard

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My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help. She told me to buy a hearing aid.

Sure, just what I need. A bulky, ugly, ill-fitting and heavy hearing aid sitting behind my ear. And, the darn thing will probably rub the skin off my ear too!

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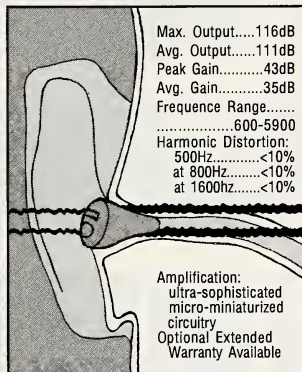
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ARMY AIR FORCE

4th AF, 446th Bomb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #16991
5th AF, 22nd Bomb Grp Assn #18722
6th AF, 74th Bomb Sqdn #20878
7th AF, 58th/531st Sqdns (WWII) #23547
8th AF, 2nd Air Div, 392nd Bomb Grp Assn #14280
8th AF, 381st Bomb Grp (H) Mem Assn (Eng, WWII) #10245
8th AF, 398th Bomb Grp (H) (ETD, WWII) #16990
8th AF Historical Society #12388
9th AF, 394th Bomb Grp, 584th Bomb Sqdn (WWII) #16831
18th Air Depot Grp, Hq/Hq Sqdn (WWII Italy, Foggia Main & North Africa) #16932
24th Air Depot Grp, Hq & Rpr Sqdn (WWII) #12619
45th Air Depot Grp (incl altch units) #11654
57th Bomb Wing Assn (WWII, all Med theater 8-25 units) #1757
64th Ftr Bn, 82nd/328th Ftr Ctlr Sqdns, 582nd Air Wren #20088
64th Ftr Sq Assn (WWII) #20443
76th TC Sq (WWII) #16942
86th Ftr Bomb Grp (WWII) #16849
322nd Bomb Grp, 450th Bomb Sqdn #15132
376th Bomb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #12392
405th Ftr Bn, 500th-511th Ftr Sqdn (WWII, ETD, F-47s) #13618
409th Bomb Grp (Western region) #23592
435th TC Grp, Hq Assn #16996
439th TC Grp, 39rd TC Sqdn (WWII) #15030
441st TC Grp (all Sqdns) #16957
451st Bomb Grp #16859
483rd Bomb Grp (H)/566th Air Engrs (WWII) #16994
494th Bomb (H) Grp "Kelley's Kobras" #20847
505th Bomb Grp, 313th Bomb Wing (VH, WWII) #20507
Pocastello AAF Base Idaho #16946

AIR FORCE

3rd Avn Flt Depot Sqdn (51-53) #11664
5th AF, 54th TC Wing, 65th TCS #15004
6th Cmbt Det Sqdn, Sentry Dog Handlers (Walker AFB, 60-67) #23757
8th AF, 487th Bomb Grp (H) (WWII) #15463
15th AF, 464th Bomb Grp, 496th Air Serv Sqdn (Italy, 43-45) #24088
15th AF, 99th Bomb Grp Historical Assn (WWII) #23781
18th FIS (54-56) #23771
18th Ftr Bomb Wing, Comm Sqdn (Diknawa/Formosa, 54-55) #13398
19th Air Base Grp, 19th Instal Sqdn (Kadena, 53-55) #22663
58th Ftr Assn (WWII-present) #22918
34th Bomb Grp (M) Assn "8-26 Marauders" #15010
442nd AF Reserve #10059
452nd Bomb Wing (Korea, 50-52) #15126
475th CAM Sqdn #23774
610th MASS (Yokota AFB, Japan, 69-72) #24087
676th Radar Sqdn (Antigo AFS, WI) #15118
AF Postal & Courier Assn (AFPCA) #10969
Berlin Airfield Vets Assn #15089
Boeing Operators Assn #24089
GEIA/MO/DAEI #24092
DCL Class 55-B #24094
Pilot Class 55-E (all bases) #22107
RAF Station Manston (all units) #13767
SAC MSET (Ottum AFB, 65-89) #24099

ARMY

1st Arm'd Cav, 2nd Sqdn (Blackhawks in VN) #2760
1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 2nd Bn, D Co (67/68) #13688

1st Inf Div, 2nd Rgt, 2nd Bn, C Co (Lai Khe, VN, 65-70, all Cos) #14819
2nd Inf Div Assn "Indian Head" (Nat) #19601
3rd Arm'd Div, 32nd Tan Bn, HQ, Cos A/B/C/D, Med Det (50s) #23760
3rd Arm'd Div Assn #20072
3rd Gen Hospital (WWII) #10111
3rd Inf Div, 4th Rgt, 2nd Bde, Charlie Co, (Bamberg, Ger, 58-59) #23937
3rd Dr MIM Co (WWII) #15235
4th Repl Depot (Japan, WWII) #15622
6th Cav (incl altch units) #15670
7th Army, 12th Chem Maint Co (Baumholder, Ger, 52-54) #14910
7th Inf Div, 184th Rgt Assn (WWII) #20667
9th Arm'd Div, 73rd Arm'd FA Bn (Remagen, WWII) #16375
9th Inf Div (all units & supt units, VN) #22977
10th Arm'd Div Assn #15959
11th Arm'd Cav Rgt "Blackhorse" Assn (11th ACVCV) #22777
15th Constabulary Sqdn (US Zone, W Ger) #12924
16th Cav Grp, 16th/19th Cav Sqdns #10863
17th Air Cav, 7th Arm'd Sqdn, D Troop #22400
21st AAA AW Bn Assn #20574
24th Corp, 27th Spec Serv Co (Korea, 46-47) #24074
25th Inf Div, 14th Rgt (Korea, 50-53) #10601
25th Inf Div, 27th Rgt (Korea, 50-53) #10900
25th Inf Div Assn #20037
28th Inf Div Association (AEF, WWII) #21679
34th Sig Co #20551
35th Inf Div (all elements) #19332
36th Inf Div Assn (Nat) #16512
38th Inf Div, 152nd Rgt, 1st Bn "1st Bn Assn" #15454
40th Inf Div, 578th Engr Co (Bn) (Korea) #15575
44th Inf Div, 324th Rgt (WWII) #11108
45th Inf Div, 179th Inf Rgt, Hq/Hq Co, Counter-Ins Ptn #23644
47th Inf, 204th Med Bn, C Co (51-53) #22408
47th Inf Div FA Bn Assn #11245
49th Inf Div Assn #12027
69th Inf Div Recon Trp (WWII) #16720
70th Inf Div, 274th Rgt, E Co, Cmbt Sqdn "Trailblazers" (44-46) #24095
70th Inf Div, 370th Med Bn, B Co #13438
73rd Tank Bn, (Korea/Ft. Benning/Ft. Bragg/Desert Station) #23475
74th CA (AA) Rgt, F Btry (40-44) #22605
75th Dr Depot Co (Ger, 50s) #23552
79th Inf Div, 313th Rgt, "Cross of Lorraine Assn" (WWII) #15637
79th Inf Div, 314th Rgt, 79th Recon Trp (WWII) #20878
80th Inf Div, 316th Rgt, F Co #19144
82nd FA, 8 Btry (43-50) #24093
89th Inf Div, 341st Rgt, 1st Bn, HQ Co (43-45) #13320
86th Inf Div "Blackhawk" Assn #11019
89th Inf Div Assn (WWII) #20617
91st Chem Mortar Co (aka 1st Sep Chem Bn, Co A) #15600
93rd Arm'd FA Bn (WWII) #15616
94th Med Gas Treatment Bn (WWII) #15292
94th Sig Co #15331
95th AAA Gun Bn (51-52) #23556
96th Inf Div Assn "Deadeyes" #16567
97th Inf Div, 303rd Rgt, 1st Bn, Hq Co (WWII) #10285
97th Inf Div, 365th FA Bn #15631
97th Inf Div, 367th Rgt, G Co (WWII) #21300
101st/503rd MP Bn Assn (WWII) #18476
102nd Inf Div Assn "The DZarks" (WWII) #15811
103rd Inf Div, Sig Co WWII #14063
106th Inf Div (AZ Chap) #23745
108th Art Div, 26th Art, C/F Btry (Dong Ha, VN) #11224
158th RCT "Bushmasters East" #22341
164th Air Task Bn (Korea) #16134
167th A/B RCT "Rakkasans" Assn #22142
253rd FA Bn (WWII) #15643

286th Engr Co (Bn) #23385
289th Engr Co (Bn) #15261
292nd Engr Co (Bn) #16507
294th FA Dbs Bn #23764
300th AFA Bn (WY, NG, Korea) #15986
304th Ord Rgt (B), 2nd Bn (ETD, WWII) #11347
304th Sig Dp Bn (all yrs) #19854
322nd Sig Bn Co (50-50-present) #16611
337th/1338th Engrs Co (Bn) #15779
406th Engr Const Bn, Hq/A/B/C Cos #14137
413th/523rd H M Bn Bn #15826
449th AAA AW Bn, 8 Hq Cos #10825
451st AAA AW Bn (WWII) #11524
457th AAA AW Bn, (43-45) #23695
473rd Inf Rgt, 435th AAA AW Bn #10346
475th MP Escort Guard Co (WWII) #11641
475th AAA AW Bn, all btrys #15550
482nd AAA AW Bn (SP) Assn (WWII) #10670
483rd AAA AW Bn #15717
492nd Port Bn, Cos 230/233 (Guadalcanal/Pt, WWII) #10313
503rd MP Bn, A Co #13813
516th Sig Corps (Australia, 49-55) #15421
533rd E & SR, Co A & Hq Bn #15356
544th (WH) FA Dpt Co #20770
556th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #15520
602nd Engr Camo Bn #16535
602nd Med Amb Co (Japan, 66-71) #24100
605th TD Bn Assn (WWII) #10118
623rd FA Bn, B Btry, #12738
704th Engr Dump Truck Co (Korea) #18976
709th MP Bn, D Co (47-57, Cold War veterans) #24090
727th Amtrac Bn (Pacific, WWII) #14200
740th Tank Bn Assn #21874
745th Tank Bn (WWII) #15836
749th RDB (WWII) #16246
750th Tank Bn (WWII) #13384
753rd Railway Shop Bn TC (50th Reunion, 99) #16413
759th RDB #10784
775th FA Bn (WWII) #15505
785th MP Bn, A/D Cos #20892
786th Engr Petrol Dist Co #10424
790th QH Reclamation & Maint (Korea, 52-53) #20551
817th TD Bn (WWII) #16254
830th/840th Engr Avn Bn, SCARWAF (Korea) #14083
1276th Engr Co (Bn) #10546
1471st Engr Maint Co (WWII) #23572
1891st Engr Avn Bn (CBI, WWII) #20877
1906th Engr Avn Bn #15985
3462nd DRd MAH Co #24004
3483rd DRd MAH Co (WWII) #16057
3537th DRd MAH Co #14156
7811th Army Service Unit (54-57, Cold War veterans) #24091
American Division Veterans Assn, Arthur Wood SE Chapter #23807
Army Dtr/Caribou Assn (U-1A/CV-28) #14790
ASA Chitose #10240
Fukui Mil Govt Team (Honshu, 45-48) #23758
HQ Co US Army Garrison, Championship Football Team (65-67, Ft. Shafter HI) #25588
DCS Class 200 (Ft. Benning, Dec 42-Mar 43) #24098
Persian Gulf Command Veterans (WWII) #21738
Society of the 1st Inf Div, "Big Red One" (all yrs) #15354
XIII Corps Assn (WWII) #15530

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Acushnet Cherokee/Chilula/Comanche/Escape/Lipan/Modoc/Ute/Yocoma #22181
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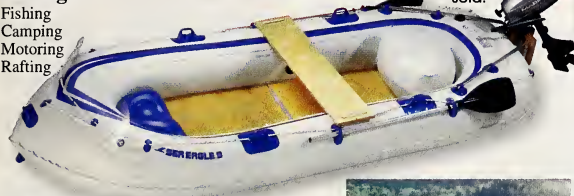
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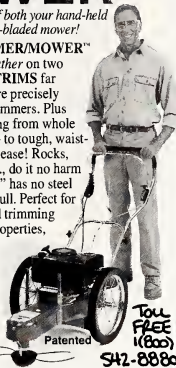
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Anyone who served with the 8116th ASU/5th EOD, Okinawa, 1951-53. Contact Bobby M. Bennett, 9614 N. 55th St., Temple Terrace, FL 33617-4700 or call (813) 983-9114.
Anyone who served at the Nike missile base C-47 near Wheeler, Ind. Contact Marvin Clark Johnson, Nike Preservation Group, 2113 Fisher, Speedway, IN 46224 or call (317) 244-3209.

Anyone who served with the 4th Armored Division Band, March 1962-March 1964, under CWO Ernest Hook, Contact Richard Leonard, 1028 Cloverlawn, Lincoln Park, MI 48146.

Anyone who served with the 3439th Ordnance Co., disbanded in November, 1944. Contact Sidney Crosthwait, 12216 Barr St., Crown Point, IN 46307.

Anyone who served in Co. 215 MTS, Bainbridge, Md., in 1951. Contact Stan McClosky, 1413 W. 6th St., Ontario, CA 91762 or e-mail lamstush@yahoo.com.

Anyone who served in A Co., 4th Bn., 2nd Basic Combat Training Bde., Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., April, May and June of 1971, during which time a suicide took place in the barracks. Contact Mike Hodo, 602 Vine St., Ononahgah MO 63935.

Survivors of the Japanese prisoner of war ship sunk Oct. 24, 1944, after sailing from Manila on Oct. 11 with 1,775 survivors of Bataan death march. Contact Wayne Samson, 159 Elowah Dr., Cartersville, GA 30120.

Anyone who sailed from Oran, North Africa, for Italy on Dec. 29, 1943, on the Liberty ship Lincoln Stephens, or have other experience with the Stephens. Contact John E. Boren III, 5543 Navaho Trail, Alexandria, LA 71301.

Anyone who served with Pvt. Paul Davis, Co. C, 313th Inf. Rgt., in the Battle of the Bulge. Contact Grant K. Davis, P.O. Box 424, Otterburn, IN 47970-0424.

Anyone who served with HQ Btry, 2nd Fld. Arty. Bn. in the Panama Canal Zone and in Europe during WWII. Contact Joe Greenburg, 413 SE Hibiscus Ave., Stuart FL or phone (561)287-4256.

Anyone who served on USS New Hanover, AKA 73, Contact Cliff Nelson, #312, 924 28th Ave. S.W., Miami, MD 58701 or

phone (701) 839-2649.

Anyone who served with A Co., 160th Inf. Rgt., 40th Div., in Korea, September 1952 to September 1953. Contact Robert E. Kirk, 413 W. South 5th St., Shelbyville, IL 62565-2131.
Any USAF veterans who served with Caribou units in Vietnam 1966-72. Contact Nick Evarich, 210 43rd St., Gulfport, MS 39507-4317, phone: (601) 863-8688, or Bill Avon, 729 Kaderly Ave., Strasburg, OH 44680-9785, phone: (330) 878-7451.

Crew members of SSN702 USS Phoenix for recollections for use in book. Contact Ron Blumer, Box 69, Granville, IL 61236 or phone (815) 339-6847.

Anyone who served in Co. D, 141st Inf. Rgt., 36th Inf. Div., in European theater between March 9, 1944 and June 17, 1945. Contact Herbert A. Connolly, 304 Sunderland Rd. #42, Worcester, MA 01604.

Anyone who served in the 58th MP Co. in Korea, May 1952-September 1953. Contact Dave Murphy, P.O. Box 319, Duxbury, MA 02331 or RedHurry@aol.com.

Anyone who served aboard the presidential yacht Sequoia, 1942-76. Contact William J. Ross, 4425 Romion St., Beltsville, MD 20705 or call collect (301) 937-3067.

Any 51st Sig. Bn. veterans. Contact Glenn F. Carpenter, 810 Glynnest Drive, Wagonketa, OH 45951. Call (419) 738-3368 or e-mail:carp@earthlink.net.

Anyone who served with 111th Sig. Service Co. on Okinawa, 1947. Contact Leo Julian, P.O. Box 49, Mayville, NY 14757.

Members of Class WFTC 635, AAF Radar Observers School, Willingfield, England, Charnock, Ariz., graduated Aug. 20, 1945. Contact Herbert W. Schimke, P.O. Box 145, Onokima, HI 49675-0145.

Any B-29 crewmen who flew coal to Berlin during the airlift. Contact Bill Haskins, 500 Fillmore, Alexandria, MN 56308, fax (507) 763-5054 or e-mail:marian@tda-ai.com.

Anyone who remembers me from service in the 54th Cent. Engr. Bn., Leipzig, Germany, 1952-54. Contact Gene B. Broughton, 50 Teton Ln., Unit 128, Mankato, MN 56001-4853 or phone (507) 388-4657.

The soldier who, with his family, was befriended and sheltered by the Gen. and Laura Anderson while stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in the early 1970s. Contact Excelsior for the Estate for Laura Anderson, 8283 Birch Vly, San Antonio, TX 78242.

Anyone from Hawaii of Japanese ancestry who served as a weather observer at Holloman AFB in 1967 and as a combat weather observer attached to the 1st Cav at Camp Evans in 1968. Contact P.W. Gonzales, RR 1, Box 484, Quemado, TX 78877.

Anyone who served with Co. B, 3104th Sig. Service Bn., World War II. Contact E.L. Fulkerson, 605 Debra Ln., Elizabethton, KY 42701.

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Anyone willing to loan or donate memorabilia of USS Roanoke (CL-145) and replenishment officer USS Roanoke (AOR-7). Contact the History Museum & Historical Society of Western Virginia, P.O. Box 1904, Roanoke, VA 24008.

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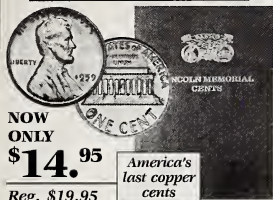
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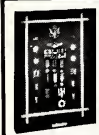
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